

# BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXX

JANUARY 2002

NO. 1

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

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OUR MOTTO: Scriptural in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,  
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

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## THE STORY OF HIS LOVE

There's a story I would tell, will you hear it?  
A story that is ever new;  
'Tis that Jesus frees the sin burdened spirit,  
O blessed words of comfort true.

"Tis the story of the cross, oh, receive it!  
See how he died to save his own;  
Oh, accept the message now and believe it,  
And walk no more life's way alone.

Jesus saw, with pitying eye, our condition,  
And willingly he died for all;  
Now he's knocking at our hearts for admission,  
Shall we reject his loving call?

Heav'n and earth may pass away, but the story  
Will live and ever grow more dear,  
Of our Savior's matchless love and his glory;  
Oh, will you now the story hear?

-Laura E. Newell

## PREPARING FOR THE NEW YEAR

"In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust; let me never be ashamed; deliver me in they righteousness. Bow down thine ear to me; deliver me speedily; be thou my strong rock, for an house of defence to save me." Ps 31:1-2.

As the new year begins, what preparations have we made? Do we want this year to be like other years or are we looking for a year that is more Spiritually uplifting? To have the desired outcome, we must change what has been wrong so it will be right. The outcome will depend on the choices we make throughout the year. If we prepare now for the new year, we can enjoy the blessings throughout the year. If we wait until later to make our preparations, we will not have the entire year of blessings to enjoy.

Making resolutions has often been employed as a means of preparation. However resolutions tend to be made without much conviction of succeeding in keeping them. Too often, resolutions are made without specific goals or even without a real desire to fulfill them. Making resolutions can become a worldly fad.

The follower of God should have a higher purpose and make more urgent preparations for the new year. Like the Psalmist of old, he should make a definite declaration, not just at new years, but throughout the year. That statement should be, "In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust;". Without an absolute and unbending trust in the Lord, there is little that can be accomplished throughout the

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year. There has to be a firm declaration of belief and intent to go forward.

A statement like the Psalmist's establishes that we have a foundation upon which we can build our lives. There are many Godly benefits that go with declaring our trust in Him.

It seems in today's world that believers are often made to feel ashamed of their declared intention. Somehow it is thought unmanly, unwomanly, anti-intellectual to be identified with God and His ways. It is not God's desire that we would be ashamed of Him. Recent events have perhaps taken away some of the shame of being known as a follower of the Lord, but as those events recede in the crowd's memories, they become less and less concerned about God and Godly things. Our declaration of trust in God, should strengthen us so we will not be ashamed of Him.

He has given us many physical and temporal blessings, but the greatest gift from Him is eternal life through His Son, Jesus Christ. It is the righteousness of Jesus that makes His sacrifice on the cross meaningful for us. Without His perfect righteousness, we could not obtain salvation. Jesus died the perfect Lamb of God, sacrificed for imperfect, sinful people. His righteousness covers us so we can be adopted into Our Heavenly Father's family. We, never, can live a life good enough to qualify us for that position. It only comes through the righteousness of the Sacrificial Lamb of God.

Once we have the righteousness of Christ by complying with the Gospel requirements, we owe our allegiance to Him. As those who worship and praise Him, we must live so our relationship may be known. We must live as His Holy Spirit within us would dictate. Our righteousness without His righteousness would be in vain. We can never be good enough to deserve what He is willing to give to us. He wants us to be a part of His family. He wants it more than we do.

Another benefit of declaring our trust in Him, is the ability to communicate with God. We have the opportunity and duty of prayer. We want Him to turn His ear toward us so He might hear our pleas. With trust that He is able to hear and answer our prayers, our

prayers become more than human words. With the help of the Holy Spirit, our groanings can be conveyed to God for His solution.

As the trusting children of God we can depend upon Him for the strength needed in the time of trouble and opposition. He becomes the Rock where we can safely build our lives. He becomes the sure building place for the wise man, who wants a sure foundation for his life that will withstand the storms of life. This strong place of building will become a house of defense that shelters and protects the believer. That Rock is laid through the trust that we have in God who can provide all our needed protection.

As we express our declaration of trust in the Lord at the beginning of this new year, may it be more than mere words. May there be an enjoyment of the benefits that accompany such a great faith.

May each of us have a year that is better than past years, because we have made a commitment through our declaration of our trust in the Lord. "In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust;"

M.C.Cook

## KENYA KNOTES

Hello Everyone in America,

I thought that I would let you know some of what we have been doing the last month. To start the month off we were all fighting colds. It was raining every day and almost always cold and damp and it was getting the best of us as we had not come prepared for cold damp weather.

11-06-01 Tuesday. We spent most of the day trying to guess what was in the box that we had received from Ray's and my Mother. We had decided not to open it until evening. So it sat on the table and was talked about a lot. The girls did a lot of just sitting and looking at it. It was so good to have some things from home.

11-08-01 Thursday. At 9:00 A.M. I took Frank, his mother, Hosea and a sick lady from one of the churches to the hospital. I did not get home until after dinner. Frank is doing very well and only has to go to the physical therapist once a month now instead of every

week. Ray and Davidson went to Katali to get supplies and did not get home until 5:00. So we all did a lot of running that day.

That night we found fleas in my bed and then in the girl's bed. We sprayed the beds and changed the sheets. What will God send next? First the rats then the fleas from the rats.

11-14-01 Wednesday. I had an e-mail from the social worker for the Big Brother/Big Sister program at home. The brother of the little girl, who is my "little sister", had been in an accident and was hurt very bad. He had been hit by a car when he was on a three wheeler in his mother's driveway. They had taken him to John Hopkins Hospital, where he was in ICU.

Ray had to take a lady home that had been in the hospital. It was a two hour drive one way so we all packed a lunch and went along. It was a very beautiful drive and on the way home we bought a kitten. The kitten seemed very tame but we would find out the next day that it had been drunk.

11-15-01 Thursday. My mother called and told me that Craig (the boy that was in the accident) had passed away. I spent most of the day in my room and wrote letters to the family. Junitta was sick and could not keep food down so Cheryl spent the day taking care of her. The kitten was very sick and had the girls worried that it would die so it was a long day for everyone. They took Junitta to the doctor and she had Malaria.

11-17-01 Saturday. Ray and Cheryl took Veronica to the doctor and she had malaria also. I had a head cold. The girls had runny noses and Ray was just not feeling very good.

11-19-01 Monday. Junitta, Veronica and I were all feeling much better today but Ray was feeling worse and he disappeared for a while and then came home and said that he had Malaria. He had gone and was checked without telling us he was going. He came home took his medicine and then went to bed.

11-22-01 Thanksgiving Day. It was very unlike any I have had before. We had mashed potatoes, peas, beef gravy, stuffing and pumpkin pie. What was so different was not having family around, but instead having the natives coming and going all day needing



things. They did not understand that it was a holiday for us.

11-27-01 Tuesday. Ray and Davidson went to town and came home with four boxes from Mark Andrews' and the Grandview Church. We opened two of them that night and they had Christmas gifts in them. It made Christmas seem just a little closer as it was hard to believe it was that time of year with no snow.

11-28-01 Wednesday. After dinner Ray, Davidson and I all worked on staking out the site for the new house. It was exciting to see the progress on the new house. This was the last week for the men to make brick so that was progress also to have them done with the bricks.

11-30-01 Friday. Cheryl made cookies in the morning and about 4:00 P.M. we took cookies and a drink up to the men as it was their last day. They all enjoyed that.

Sister Nancy Noecker

## **POCKETS ARE FOR CANDY**

The two young deacons had labored all day and were quite tired. They had one more visit; an elderly sister who lived quite out of the way. It was their fifth visit of the day, and it was already dark.

The custom of the Brethren over the years has been to conduct personal visits each year before the Lovefeast. There are many reasons for this, but it is especially useful to gauge the spiritual condition of the congregation. The visit with the old sister went well. The standard questions were asked by the Brethren: Are you still in the faith of the Gospel as you declared when you were baptized? Are you, as far as you know, in peace and harmony with the church? Will you continue to labor with the Brethren for an increase in Holiness, both in yourself and others? Her answer to all three of the questions was, "By the grace of God, yes." Brother John and Brother Phil could not have been happier. Before they parted company, Sister Katherine gave them a sad bit of news.

"Brother Ernest passed away yesterday. He was eighty-five." They were both sorry to hear it, and their good-byes to Sister

Katherine were somewhat muted. Brother Ernest had served as a deacon in a neighboring congregation.

Heading home there was silence for several miles. Then Brother Phil reluctantly spoke. "One of my earliest memories in the church was of old Brother Ernest. He sure loved children. He was always there to greet the little ones after the service."

Brother John then chimed in. "Often the preachers forgot about us children. They were too busy talking to the adults. So Brother Ernest took over. He would let us reach in his coat pockets to see what kind of candy he had. I loved those root beer barrels. He carried so many that he rattled when he walked. None of us ever took more than one piece at a time."

Phil returned, "I remember he often taught the little children's Sunday School. We looked forward to it. A few years ago a stir was caused concerning the candy. Some of the younger mothers did not want their children eating sweets. It was over such a little thing—"

"—A little thing, yes, but we little ones never forgot how he treated us. We all saw the goodness of God in him. When it came time to give our hearts to the Lord, Brother Ernest was right there, and we realized that it was God that made him the way he was. The Lord could also do the same for us."

"I remember he always said, 'Take care of the little things and the big things will take care of themselves.' He sure took care of us little ones."

As these brethren drove home that night and reminisced about their old friend, we believe there was no doubt in their minds that their decision to follow Christ was the right one, because they had such a wonderful example to follow.

"Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ." I Corinthians 11:1.

Brother Lynn H. Miller  
70 Round Barn Rd.  
Newmanstown, PA 17073

## DID WE LOSE'EM

It is certainly sad to see one of our number embrace the world of sin and possibly be lost. It is also sad to see one leave our fellowship and join another. However, there is a vast difference! It is inevitable that some will be enticed away by companions, school, new interests, new locations and so forth.

When we see one of our youth, or older person for that matter, join another fellowship we should hope and pray that they have taken strong Christian values and a Godly commitment with them. Our desire should also be that they will strengthen the group with which they are involved. When a young person leaves I would rather not think that we have lost a member but that we have in some small way given training and Christian stability to a person who will go out from our midst to strengthen the Army of the Lord. Proverbs 22:6, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." The "way" referred to here is God's way — not the Dunkard way.

Of course we want to see our young people stay and our numbers grow. Absolutely! That is understandable.

When they leave we should not despair and look on it as failure, but rather that we have generated soldiers of the cross.

Have we lost'em, or have we sent them out?

Brother Roger Swihart  
Quinter, KS 67752

## STARTING THE NEW YEAR RIGHT

II Chronicles 14:1-7

"So Abijah slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the city of David: and Asa his son reigned in his stead. In his days the land was quiet ten years."

This verse speaks of a new start. As we enter a new year it will be, in a sense, a new start for everyone. However many will carry last years' debts along with them in the new year. Others will carry the same old doubts and fears with them. Some will carry their



sinful habits and weaknesses along with them into the new year. A new year does not make a new man or woman.

“And Asa did that which was good and right in the eyes of the Lord his God.”

This verse speaks not only of a new start but a good start. If you have never accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, doing so will be the only way to make this year a good start. If you are already a Christian a good start is to will to allow Jesus Christ to truly be Lord of your life.

“For he took away the altars of the strange gods, and the high places, and brake down the images, and cut down the groves:”

This verse speaks of a turn to righteousness. To truly make Jesus Christ Lord of our life means we must take away the altars of the strange gods in our life. No! We do not have literal altars, but have we made the things of this world more important than serving Christ? Do we still harbor the desire for professional sports, television or some other thing that does not allow Christ to be King of our lives? We have to break down the high places in our lives. While we do not consider such things as hunting or taking a vacation to be sin, they can become sin if they take precedence over the things of God. We must break down the images in our lives. Most of those reading this do not belong to a church that has images to bow down to. But do we “worship” the things we practice above the word of God? Do we observe things to be true to Christ or merely to impress others? Or perhaps self has become an image that convinces us that we do not need to conform to the standards of a church because they are only “man made.” We must cut down the groves in our lives. Do we harbor secret sins, which, of course, are not secret to God anymore? Are we only interested in the things of God when we are in worship? Do we truly desire that the Holy Spirit would mold us and make us into a character of Christ?

“And commanded Judah to seek the Lord God of their fathers, and to do the law and commandment.”

While the new year should be a time to do away with those things that wound and weaken the soul, we need not necessarily

throw away all the things of the past. We believe our Brethren forefathers, while not perfect, even as the Israelite fathers were not perfect, established some guidelines that are helpful for today. It is sad, in our humble opinion, that all "laws" and "commandments" are, for the most part, considered to be merely legalism.

"Also he took away out of all the cities of Judah the high places and the images: and the kingdom was quiet before him. And he built fenced cities in Judah: for the land had rest, and he had no war in those years; because the Lord had given him rest."

Praise God, the new year can be a time of quiet and rest. There can be a time of peace. We seriously doubt that there will be a time of lack of war in the world until Jesus makes His second appearance. This, of course, could take place in this new year of 2002. Even if it does not, we can have the peace of God that passeth all understanding in this new year. We need not let our hearts be troubled in times of war and rumors of war. Even in times of personal sorrow and strife we can have the peace of God in our hearts.

"Therefore he said unto Judah, Let us build these cities, and make them walls, and towers, gates, and bars, while the land is yet before us; because we have sought the Lord our God, we have sought him, and he hath given us rest on every side. So they built and prospered."

While prosperity is not necessarily a sign of godliness, we believe God will prosper those who live according to His will. This new year can be a time of prosperity. Hopefully more so spiritually than physically. Let us desire to start the new year right!

Brother James M. Hite  
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Palmyra, PA 17078-2704

### **THIS TERRIBLE WAR**

We see this terrible, terrible war  
As it is raging on before us,  
Yes, they want ammunition galore;

But they never think of how they fuss.

We read in God's Holy Word  
That it is very wrong to kill;  
But people will carry their sword  
And fight against God's Will.

They want us to buy war bonds,  
And go out and kill many others;  
But they will not hold God's hands  
As they march out against their brothers.

We hear of them bombing a city  
In some enemy's guarded place;  
But they will not receive pity  
When they meet God face to face.

-Arvilla May (Weaver) Keeny

This poem was written during World War II when the author was in her teens.

## CHILDREN'S PAGE

### A GOOD NAME

"A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold." Proverbs 22:1.

"Joshua," called Mother as she went to the back screen door. "Joshua," she called again. "Where are you?" She stepped out onto the porch, but did not see him anywhere in the yard. Maybe he is in the barn playing, she thought.

She walked to the barn and opened the barn door. It was dark and dusty inside. At first she did not see him until her eyes became adjusted to the dim light, then she saw him huddled in the corner, crying.



"Why what is the matter?" Mother asked as she laid her hand on his shoulder.

"It's not fair!" sobbed Joshua as he swiped a hand across his eyes. "Why do I have to have such a miserable name? Why didn't you name me, John, or Paul, or Timothy, or Bill or some common name?"

"I wonder why you are suddenly unhappy with your name? Has someone made fun of your name at school?"

Joshua nodded his head.

Mother sat down beside him. "Names are special and often babies are named after a loved and respected ancestor or a member of the church, who has been an outstanding character or whose life has been an influence for good. When you were born we named you after a minister, who was beloved by all who knew him. We wanted our son to have some of the good characteristics that he had possessed. Although he died a good many years ago, yet, when his name is mentioned, we remember the good exemplary life he lived."

"Your name is also a Bible name. Joshua was a great leader. A book of the Bible is named after him and tells about the deeds he did and the battles he fought. Joshua once said, 'As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord!' Regardless of what others might do, he was determined to make the right choice and follow the Lord. It was Joshua who admonished the people to be strong and courageous for the Lord was with them. It was Joshua, who led the children of Israel into the promised land. A land promised to the Israelite nation many years before. So you have a name that means something. You are honored to share the same name as this great war hero. This name may not be a popular name to those people who do not know the Bible, but it is a good name. You certainly need not be ashamed of it."

"There are several names that seem uncommon to us as we run across them either in reading the newspaper or in dealing with the public. Some of these names are: Roastingear, Goodnight, Calamity, Willie Wiggles, Hum Ha, Billy Goforth, Aaron Straw, Paul Wrinkle and Goodenough. How would you like to have a last name

of Pakayachanlovayana?"

"Regardless of what your name is your playmates will be glad if you play fairly and don't cheat in the games you play with them. They will enjoy playing with you if you are willing to share your toys. Your Father and I will be happy when you are obedient. Always remember people are remembered by the life they live, even though they don't have a lot of money or a popular name."

Joshua stood up with a smile and gave his Mother a hug. "I'm glad you didn't name me Willie Wiggles. Joshua Miller is good enough for me!"

Sister Maxine Surbey

## AM I A SOLDIER OF THE CROSS?

Brethren Hymnal #496

"God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world." Galatians 6:14.

As conscientious objectors to war many of us resent being compared to a soldier of this world, but yet certain aspects of soldiering are good attributes to which we should aspire. For instance, a soldier in battle cannot concern himself with being self-centered. He has no time for self-pity. He must serve, to the death, his Master. He must stay at his post. He must follow orders, even if it means death.

The scriptures tell us in II Timothy 2:4, "No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier." The scriptures are not telling us to be a worldly soldier, but we are being compared to them to have their qualities of loyalty.

Must I be carried to the skies  
On flow'ry beds of ease,  
Whilst others fought to win the prize,  
And sailed thro' bloody seas?

-Isaac Watts

In old times we as a church were persecuted in Europe, so many came to America. When we got here we had many years of peace until war broke out and the government tried to conscript us into military service. We were then persecuted again. Today, many say we have no persecution. My question is, are we being vocal enough for the Lord? Are we telling others about Him? John the Baptist told the King his sins and lost his head over it. Stephen told the Pharisees their sins and was stoned to death. They both followed the leading of the Holy Ghost. If we follow Him, we will not necessarily be killed for our faith, but we may. If we keep quiet about our faith, then no one will know.

Sure I must fight, if I would reign;  
Increase my courage, Lord.  
I'll bear the toil, endure the pain,  
Supported by Thy Word.

Do we have the same compassion for souls as what Jesus did? What pain have we endured for Him? What toil must we bear? Have we retired to our flowery beds of ease expecting to float up to heaven? Are we afraid to talk to others about Jesus because we expect to be contradicted? We should expect it, but we should tell others anyway, giving the glory to God.

Brother Lynn H. Miller  
70 Round Barn Road  
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## **BIBLE STORIES**

### **"TAKE UP THY BED AND WALK"**

Did you ever see a sick man pick up the bed he was lying on and carry it away? I know I never have and I don't suppose you have either; yet, one time this very thing happened! Jesus was staying at a certain house in Capernaum, and after a few days the people found out where He was and crowded into the house till it was filled so that no one could possibly get in the door. And Jesus preached to them.



While this was going on there were four men bringing on a bed, a man who was sick with palsy, and he was so weak all he could do was lay on his bed. When they came to the house where Jesus was, they soon saw that it would be impossible to push their way through the crowd and get to Jesus. Now, these four men weren't the kind that gave up easily. One of them thought of going up on the roof, so up they went, taking the sick man and his bed with them. Then they began to take the roof apart, and when they had a hole big enough, they began to lower the sick man and his bed down through the roof. I suppose they had a rope on each corner of the bed.

While Jesus was talking, all at once here comes the sick man on his bed right in front of Him! When Jesus saw this poor sick man He said, "Thy sins be forgiven thee." Now, this wasn't exactly what the four men had in mind. They had brought this man here to be healed of the palsy. Others that were in the crowd said, "This man speaks blasphemy. Who can forgive sins but God only."

When Jesus knew what the people were thinking, He said, "Which is easier to say to the sick of the palsy, Thy sins be forgiven thee or to say, Arise, and take up thy bed and walk? But that you may know that the Son of man hath power to forgive sins, (He said to the sick man) I say unto thee, Arise take up thy bed and go to your house." And immediately the sick man was made strong and well and he picked up his bed and walked away.

The people were amazed and glorified God and said, "We never saw anything like this before."

Brother Rudy Cover

## WANTED

God give us men! A time like this demands

Strong minds, great hearts, true faith, and ready hands;

Men whom the lust of office does not kill;

Men whom the spoils of office cannot buy;

Men who possess opinions and a will;

Men who have honor—men who will not lie.  
Men who can stand before a demagogue  
And damn his treacherous flatteries without winking;  
Tall men, sun-crowned, who live above the fog  
In public duty and in private thinking;  
For while the rabble, with their thumb-worn creeds,  
Their large professions and their little deeds,  
Mingle in selfish stride, lo! Freedom weeps,  
Wrong rules the land, and waiting Justice sleeps.

-Josiah Gilbert Holland

## THE SEARCH FOR HAPPINESS

Harold S. Martin

The Book of Ecclesiastes (in the Bible) gives King Solomon's experiences when trying to find happiness "under the sun." The phrase "under the sun" simply means that Solomon was trying to find happiness here on earth, under the sun, apart from God. We want to look at some of the things that Solomon tried, and found inadequate, in his pursuit of happiness.

### 1. SOLOMON TRIED LUXURY

Solomon first surmised that the material things of life would fill the vacuum in his soul. Thus he gave himself to the purchase of possessions, hoping to satisfy the hunger in his heart. He filled his coffers and made his barns bulge. His wealth was immense; his palace was magnificent; his household was huge. If he wanted to build something, he built it. If he wanted to do anything, he did it. Read Ecclesiastes 2:4-11. If any man could have found permanent pleasure in material things, King Solomon should have been that man.

Did all this material wealth make Solomon happy? Did it fill the aching emptiness of his heart? Listen to his own words in Ecclesiastes 2:11, "Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit."

Happiness cannot be found in luxuries and material things.

## 2. SOLOMON TRIED LEARNING

When King Solomon discovered that material prosperity does not give peace of mind, he turned to another pursuit. He gave himself to the acquiring of knowledge, hoping by this to stifle the monotony that haunted his earthly life. Read Ecclesiastes 1:17-18.

Solomon became a prolific student. A careful study of the book of Proverbs reveals the comprehensive reach of this man's mind. He knew the natural environment of the beast of the field; he understood the nature of the flight of the bird in the air; he knew the customs of the fish in the sea. Solomon burned the midnight oil. He drank deeply from the well of knowledge—but even this never brought peace and happiness. A formal academic education is useful and is required as a preparation for many jobs in life, but the training of the mind does not insure peace in the heart. And so in the search for happiness, we find that learning is not the answer.

## 3. SOLOMON TRIED LIQUOR

After discovering that luxury and learning would not satisfy the deeper needs of the soul, Solomon turned to drinking. He thought perhaps that in wine, he could find the answer to the problems of life. Read Ecclesiastes 2:3 in the Bible. Being a man of wealth, Solomon ordered the best beverages that the times could produce—but he soon discovered (like many others since his day) that "Wine is a mocker, and strong drink is raging, and whosoever is deceived thereby, is not wise."

Liquor never brings permanent satisfaction. One who is under the influence of alcohol (for a short while) is transported out of the land of hard reality into the land of make-believe—and there for a while he can laugh at his problems—but when the drug wears off, he is right back where he started. Drinking is not the way to try and solve life's problems.

## 4. SOLOMON TRIED LUST

Solomon found no solution to his monotony in luxury and liquor and learning, and so he turned to lust. He married 700 women



and had 300 concubines (see I Kings 11:1-3). If anyone seems to be envious of Solomon and his 700 wives, keep in mind that this meant 700 birthdays to remember, and certainly lots of "in-law" problems. No wonder Solomon concludes in Ecclesiastes 7:26, "And I find more bitter than death, the woman whose heart is snares and nets, and whose hands are fetters." And so we see that lust toward many strange women did not satisfy the emptiness of Solomon's heart.

Some people seem to think that finding a new married partner will bring happiness in life, but in most cases the new marital arrangement is less than ideal. Others seek experiences with a variety of sexual partners—but the guilt, and the danger of contracting AIDS, and the displeasure such conduct brings to God—can never lead to happiness.

#### 5. SOLOMON TURNED TO THE LORD

The message of the Bible is that apart from God life is full of weariness and disappointment. King Solomon was gifted with a keen intellect; he was versed in the affairs of human life; he was fed with every dainty this earth could produce. But still he was a stranger to the sweet peace which every human heart craves. There is nothing under the sun that can permanently satisfy the thirsty heart. Solomon found that life with all its experiences, is but emptiness and a striving after the wind—if it is lived apart from God.

But Solomon did not let the matter rest with seeking happiness in luxury and learning and the other earthly pursuits. He turned to the Lord. He says, "I know that it will be well with those that fear God" (Ecclesiastes 8:12). It is vain to seek happiness under the sun. Instead, we should fear God, and remember our Creator and serve Him, because He is going to bring every work into judgment. We are told in the Bible that God loves each individual human being, and that He sent Jesus to die in our place so that we might be free from the penalty for sin, and have everlasting life (John 3:16). Jesus stands ready to come into our lives if we are willing to open the door of our hearts to Him (Revelation 3:20). Why not give your heart to Jesus today? He says that those who come to Him will not be cast out (John 6:37).

Note: Additional copies of this tract sent free on request. Ask for our sample packet of Bible Helps.

Bible Helps  
P.O. Box 391  
Hanover, PA 17331

## **WHERE WILL YOU SPEND ETERNITY??**

Richard Mummau

We live in an age when there is a smorgasbord of churches and religions and beliefs among people. A person can find almost any type of group to associate with. We also live in an age when almost anything is accepted as being Christian. If someone comes to the conclusion that what someone is doing is not Christian, they are accused of judging.

As Christians, we are called to discernment. We want to look at a few scriptures.

I Cor. 2:15, "But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man." Now for those who think that we should never "judge" anything, this verse presents a problem. The Christian is called to judge or discern between what is right and wrong. He is to be a discerning person. And we cannot do this without sometimes calling something for what it is.

Matt 7:20, "Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them." Here again, we must use some discernment. And when we see bad fruit, we know that the tree is bad also. So to call a tree a bad tree when the fruit is bad is just doing what the Bible says we are to do.

Titus 3:10, "A man that is an heretic after the first and second admonition reject;" How could we do this if we did not pass judgment upon what he was doing or saying? The word "heretic" in the Greek implies to cause "division." And this is often done by sowing discord and speaking wrongly about others.

I Thess. 5:21-22, "Prove all things: hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil." Here again, how can we do this if we do not draw some conclusions about what we see and

hear.

II Thess. 3:6, "Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us." Again, the need to discern or judge the actions of another. This is what Vine says about the word disorderly - Ataktos (814) signifies "disorderly, with slackness" (like soldiers not keeping rank) II Thess. 3:6.

Now I am not writing this to encourage us to go around and look for the faults of others and to be passing judgment upon everyone or everything. But I do want to encourage all of us to not be intimidated to refrain from speaking up when we see something that is not according to the scriptures.

The kind of judging we are not to do is this. I see a man who is drunk. I go to him and say "you are going to Hell." This is a judgement I cannot make. But I can go up to the man and say "The Bible says that a drunkard shall not enter heaven." We leave the final judgement up to God. There are many other areas where we can apply this.

One thing that makes it hard is that there are many people who are striving to serve the Lord. But not everyone who "says" they are striving to serve the Lord is really doing it. We have to be "fruit inspectors" and we have to be "discerning." One thing lacking in our day is "discernment." I read a book one time called "A call to Discernment." The writer goes on to say that not many people use discernment any more. The writer of this book is a Presbyterian. Someone uses the name of Jesus and we think he must be a Christian. But not everyone that uses the name Jesus is a Christian.

So dear family, let's do like Jesus said and be wise as serpents, and harmless as doves. And one of the best helps we have is the Bible. Let us keep on reading the Bible. Let's not just fall for anything that comes along that seems to be good. Let's do some discerning by not going just on what is seen. Anything that is worth while will have some consistency to it.

Someone has said that if we do not "stand for anything", we will "fall for anything." He is probably right.



The Scriptures also say "Know them that labor among you." I think that this means that we are not to be following someone we do not know. This would rule out following the TV preachers. Most of them live lives off stage that is different than they preach. I know of a gospel singing group who when they stayed in a motel were as wicked as any other secular singing group. This group is not around any more. But they had a following and people did not know them considered them fine Christians.

Selected by Sister Terry Scofield

## THE BOY AND THE MAN

J. H. Moore

War Times

But there was a sad day ahead for the whole family. In the end it was probably for the best, for me especially, but it was painful in the extreme. It came in the latter part of the summer of 1861. The war between the North and the South had been going on a few months. A large Southern army had passed just to the north of us, on its way to Carthage, where it met Sigel and his forces. Still later came the five thousand well-armed troops under the command of Gen. Lyon. All business had stopped. The people of the community were divided in sentiment and mistrusted each other. We were out of money, and had but little on which to live aside from what we had raised. Father was sick, one of my sisters had typhoid fever, and the whole family was in mental distress. Word came that Gen. Lyon had been killed and his splendid army defeated. A few days later Confederate soldiers were everywhere.

One afternoon Uncle Philip and Uncle Isaac Moore were at our house and a consultation was held, with the children absent. After the two uncles had left I was told to grease the wagon, bring it up to the house and say not a word should a neighbor chance to call. Mother had whispered something to the two older girls, and all were busy in the house.

Near sundown I was told that the three families were going to start north that night. After dark Uncle Philip came, and the few

things that could be crowded into the one wagon, so as not to make it too heavy pulling for the two horses, were hastily loaded. A bed was provided for my sick sister—we expecting to find it necessary to bury her somewhere along the road. The cover was placed on the wagon, a comfortable seat provided for father and mother, and the smaller children took their places as best they could in the wagon. The doors of a well-furnished house had been locked, and late at night we drove away from what had been our home for five years, leaving behind us plenty of cattle and hogs in the large wooded pasture. We left several stacks of grain, much corn in the cribs and still more growing in the fields. Some of us walked while father, though weak, drove the team. The scene was a sad one and made the more painful because the move meant the losing of practically all our earthly possessions.

Having tarried at Uncle Philip's for the rest of the night, the next morning, with the two uncles and their families added, with a one-horse wagon for their use we proceeded on one of the saddest trips that I have ever experienced. And yet there was an element of joy about it. None of the party believed in war, though our sympathies were with the North. We were fleeing from the horrors of war, and if we could only reach Illinois, we thought, we might escape further molestation. My parents were willing to sacrifice all the hard earnings of years in order to secure safety for the family. Day after day for two weeks, in the hot month of August, we pursued our course. There not being room in the wagon for me I walked barefoot nearly the entire distance, my clothing consisting of pants, shirt, hat and a thin vest. The dust was so deep and hot that I often had to seek a path to one side of the road in order to protect my bare feet from the heated dust.

On we went, crossing the Missouri River at Boonville and the Mississippi at Hannibal. On reaching Illinois we were all so elated that we felt like shouting; in fact, I did clap my hands and exclaim, "Goody, we are in Illinois!" In the southern part of Adams County my mother happened to have a brother, and to his home we directed our course. We were all in a sad plight to be ushered into the presence of neatly-attired and cultured kinsfolk. To them the sight must have been pathetic and a bit humiliating. My uncles



continued their journey and finally reached Woodford County. Father had grown stronger and was able to be about. The sick sister passed the crisis on the trip and finally regained her health.

My parents leaving me with mother's brother went fifteen miles further, where they rented a house near Liberty, and in the community where scores of members of the Church of the Brethren lived. I was put to work cutting up corn to earn money enough to procure a pair of boots. I was weak from much exposure during my long walk and the work went hard with me. The soles of my feet had worn through and they began to get quite tender. At times my stomach was too weak to retain a meal even after I had eaten it. The situation was discouraging, but I worked on day after day, earning not much over one dollar a week. Finally the task was completed, and early one chilly morning, when the ground was covered with a heavy frost, I started out, barefoot, to make my way to where my parents lived. With the soles of my feet still sore, the ground cold, and my body thinly clad, I now recall this walk of fifteen miles as the most painful trip of my life. I am sure that the prodigal son, hungry and in rags, on entering his father's mansion, never felt greater joy in his soul than was the feeling that came to me when I reached the humble cottage of my parents on this occasion. That afternoon I had my measure taken for a pair of boots, that were to be ready for me ten days later. It took practically all of the money I had made to pay for them.

#### In the Wolf Neighborhood

Winter was coming on. Times were hard and I had to continue working to earn money with which to buy some clothing. Part of the time I was in the woods chopping cordwood. I was handy with the axe but still weak. The family might have begged for some old clothing, but the mind revolted at the thought. Our notion of life was to work and earn our living. It never occurred to us that the world owed us a living and that we ought to have it, work or no work. We all worked, saved and scrimped. Scant clothing, a very limited supply of provisions and a cold house in which to live made the winter one of suffering for us. There was no thought of school. All we thought of was to work and live. The baby sister, not more



than six weeks old when we left Missouri, was too tender to stand the hardships, and while the innocent spirit passed to the realm of the blest, the frail body was laid away in the cold grave.

Spring was ushered in. The flowers bloomed, the trees put on their graceful attire, the landscapes were carpeted with the living green, the air was full of fragrance from the bloom of the apple, plum and peach trees; songs of birds filled the air. We were on a farm. The soil was turned. Crops were planted and the garden produced vegetables. Life began to seem more real. We had more to eat and could dress better. We were in the very midst of a prosperous and industrious set of people. We could attend church every Sunday. The congregation was a large one and the preacher entertaining, instructive and helpful. As compared with what we experienced the year before we were in a new world and felt more like ourselves.

Our house was a little over a quarter of a mile from the home of that saintly man, Elder George Wolf, who had located here over thirty years before. He had opened up a fine farm and built up a large congregation of intelligent and faithful Christians, nearly two hundred in number. He was then a little past eighty years old, but in his prime had been a marvelous man. He immigrated to Southern Illinois when it was yet a territory, and by taking the field against slavery helped to make the territory a free State. It is said that he did more than any other man in the State to keep slavery out of Illinois.

He was not an educated man, but nature had endowed him with a fine mind and made of him a great man. In the pulpit he was a marvel. There was no stronger preacher in all the region round about. So thoroughly did he impress the people with his greatness that they wanted to place him in nomination for governor. To this he would not consent, saying that his work was preaching the Gospel and that he could not afford to become the standard bearer in a political movement of any type. But when a county seal was needed for Union County, in which he first settled when he came to Illinois, his figure along with that of another highly respected minister, was made a part of the seal. Now, the full length figure of Elder George Wolf appears upon every public document requiring

the impression of the county seal.

It was my good fortune to spend many hours in the large room that he occupied, adjoining the residence of his son David, also a preacher of ability, and one who had served his State in the legislature. Elder Wolf was a fine-looking man, commanding in appearance—a born leader of men. His shoulders were broad; his head large; his brains seemed massive; his eyes were keen, eyebrows arched, and his whole face wore the marks of greatness. He was the first really eminent man that I had chanced to meet in life, and to be with such a man, to hear him talk, and preach occasionally, was an inspiration forever to a boy just merging into manhood. In all my relations with men I have never gotten away from the overshadowing influence of this marvelous preacher. The writing spirit had not yet come to me. If it had I might have spent some of my time committing to papers the story, as he could have related it, of a long pioneer and unique life. At times I have felt like censuring myself for being so thoughtless. It was a lost opportunity. But I was then only a boy.

These were stirring times for a boy having any ambition about him. The war between the North and the South was on in full blast, with uncertain results. I read all the war news I could get hold of and simply devoured the illustrated journals publishing pictures of battle-field scenes. I thought more about the war than about my religion and schoolbooks. As time wore on Sigel became my favorite general. I admired Grant and his military methods. I liked Sherman but disliked Fremont. Benjamin Butler amused me, but I regretted what seemed to me a weakness in McClellan, Meade and a few other eastern generals. I formed a fine opinion of General Lee and often wished that he had not taken the wrong side in the unfortunate struggle.

In the fall school opened. We had a good teacher and a fine set of pupils. I attended fairly regularly, and studied about as hard as the other boys and girls of my age, but somehow I did not make it go. Progress was slow. I was more at home in things relating to athletics. Two snowball teams were organized. I was chosen captain of one, and in this way became kind of a leader among the boys. We drilled and fought our battles. This kind of sport ap-

pealed to me more than the schoolroom. Such conduct was hard on what little religion I had, but being prompt in attending the preaching services, and listening to the sermons from Sunday to Sunday, the fire on the altar of the heart was kept burning. The brethren were patient with me, and yet Elder Wolf had me come to his room while he gave me a real fatherly talk and admonished me against being carried away by the war and irreligious spirit of the day. The admonition put me to thinking.

### **THE 2ND TEN COMMANDMENTS**

1. Thou shalt not worry, for worry is the most unproductive of all human activities.

2. Thou shalt not be fearful, for most of the things we fear never come to pass.

3. Thou shalt not cross bridges before you come to them, for no one yet has succeeded in doing this.

4. Thou shalt face each problem as it comes. You can only handle one at a time anyway.

5. Thou shalt not take problems to bed with you, for they make very poor bedfellows.

6. Thou shalt not borrow other people's problems. They can better care for them than you can.

7. Thou shalt not try to re-live yesterday for good or ill, it is forever gone. Concentrate on what is happening in your life and be happy now!

8. Thou shalt be a good listener, for only when you listen do you hear ideas different from your own. It is hard to learn something new when you are talking, and some people do know more than you do.

9. Thou shalt not become "bogged down" by frustration, for 90% of it is rooted in self-pity and will only interfere with positive action.

10. Thou shalt count thy blessings, never overlooking the small



ones, for a lot of small blessings add up to a big one.

Selected

## **TAKING ANOTHER LOOK**

"For by grace are ye saved, through faith, and that not of yourselves: It is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast." Ephesians 2:8-9.

This scripture makes plain that "saving faith" is not something we can possess. God is at any and all times it's sole proprietor. It "comes by hearing" and is given to us to use, for example, like the air we breathe. It is not our faith or trust that we place in God, nor is it any faith He may place in us that saves us. Saving faith is the faith God has, that what Jesus has done is sufficient to pay our sin debt, to pay our ransom and to redeem us.

Lee Roy Uplinger  
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## **HE WON'T ASK**

God won't ask what kind of car you drove,  
He'll ask how many people you drove who didn't have  
transportation.

God won't ask the square footage of your house,  
He'll ask how many people you welcomed into your home.

God won't ask about the clothes you had in your closet,  
He'll ask how many you helped to clothe.

God won't ask about your social status,  
He will ask what kind of class you displayed.

God won't ask how many material possessions you had,  
He'll ask if they dictated your life.

God won't ask what your highest salary was,  
He'll ask if you compromised your character to obtain it.

God won't ask how much overtime you worked,  
He'll ask if your overtime work was for yourself or for your family.

God won't ask how many promotions you received,  
He'll ask how you promoted others.

God won't ask what your job title was,  
He'll ask if you performed your job to the best of your ability.

God won't ask what you did to help yourself,  
He'll ask what you did to help others.

God won't ask how many friends you had,  
He'll ask how many people to whom you were a friend.

God won't ask what you did to protect your rights,  
He'll ask what you did to protect the rights of others.

God won't ask in what neighborhood you lived,  
He'll ask how you treated your neighbors.

God won't ask about the color of your skin,  
He'll ask about the content of your character.

God won't ask how many times your deeds matched your words,  
He'll ask how many times they didn't.

-Author Unknown

Selected by Sister Carol Walker

## **ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR FEBRUARY 2002**

February 3 - Wise in Your Own Eyes or a Fool For Jesus?-I Cor. 3:18-4:13

1. Why does God view the wisdom of this world as foolishness?
2. Why did Paul say "ye are honorable, but we are despised"?

February 10 - Fatherly Counsel and Admonition - I Cor. 4:14-5:8

1. What is the difference between an instructor and a father?
2. How may one who is involved in a serious sin, be delivered unto Satan?

February 17 - Fellowship Forbidden; Defrauding Your Brother - I Cor. 5:9-6:11

1. What kind of situation would require us to break fellowship with a brother or sister in the church?
2. If we have been cheated by our brother, is there anything that we should do besides suffer ourselves to be defrauded?

February 24 - Our Bodies Belong to God - I Cor. 6:12-20

1. How can Paul say "All things are lawful unto me"?
2. Why is your body the temple of the Holy Spirit and not your soul?



## **YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR FEBRUARY 2002**

February 3 - Our Virtue - II Peter 1:3-11, Phil. 4:6-9, I Peter 3:10-12

1. Describe the divine nature and how it may be acquired.
2. If we love life and desire to see good days, how will our thought life have an impact on the outcome?

February 10 - Our Dedication-Ex. 32:26-33, II Kings 23:2-3, Phil. 3:7-14

1. How much time and energy can be spent on things of this world before it hinders our dedication to God?
2. What is "the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus"?

February 17 - Our Anchor - Hebrews 6:1-28

1. Is it possible to lose our salvation, and if so, how?
2. How is our hope in Jesus rooted in the immutability of God?

February 24 - Hypocrisy - Matt. 23:12-28, Luke 6:44-49

1. Can you make a parallel application to each of the situations that Jesus addressed with the Pharisees?
2. Sometimes we think that only one who preaches the letter of the law may be a hypocrite, but what about one who says that he is a Christian but doesn't live like one?

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# BIBLE MONITOR

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NO. 2

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

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OUR MOTTO: Scriptural in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,  
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

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## RESOLUTION

Now I resolve with all my heart,  
With all my pow'rs to serve the Lord;  
Nor from his precepts e'er depart,  
Whose service is a rich reward.

O be his service all my joy!  
Around let my example shine,  
Till others love the blest employ,  
And join in labors so divine.

Be this the purpose of my soul,  
My solemn, my determined choice,  
To yield to his supreme control,  
And in his kind commands rejoice.

O may I never faint nor tire,  
Nor, wand'ring, leave his sacred ways;  
Great God, accept my soul's desire,  
And give me strength to live thy praise.

-Anne Steele

## THE MORNING CLOUD AND THE MORNING DEW

Some things in life are permanent; others are transitory. Among those things that come for a short period of time are the morning clouds and the dew. The morning cloud is a soft, fluffy cloud that moves quickly across the sky. People might think that there might be some moisture coming, but it goes its way, and the sun shines again. There is no rain, just an unfulfilled promise. Dew appears when the warm air of the previous day is cooled by the night's lower temperature. Because the warmer air contains more moisture than cooler air, it must get rid of the excess. That excess is deposited over the ground as dew. A heavy dew may appear as if it has rained, but that would be an illusion. Both the morning cloud and the morning dew are quickly gone. They are seen and felt but do not last.

Hosea also uses the wind-driven chaff and the smoke rising from the chimney as similar pictures in Hosea 13:3. These things, like the morning cloud and morning dew, are transitory. When the grain is beaten with a flail, the wind will blow away the chaff and leave the grain. When smoke goes up the chimney and into the air, it soon vanishes away. That puff of smoke is a picture of the brevity of man's life.

In this instance, Hosea is speaking of Ephraim. The complaint against Ephraim was that he was unfaithful, worshipping Baal instead of the Lord who had led them into the Promised Land. The

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tribe of Ephraim became the dominant tribe among the ten northern tribes. Ephraim represented Israel. Hosea was warning Israel of their precarious position. They had turned from God unto Baal.

Hosea warned them that their course was unwise for it would imperil their standing with God. He would eventually bring judgment upon them. They would, like all men, have to face the judgment of God for their deeds. They were not faithful so they answered for it.

While describing Ephraim as an empty cloud, he spoke of God as the one and only Saviour. The total faithfulness of God is here contrasted with the fickleness of Ephraim. God could be depended on, while Ephraim was as the unfulfilled promise of a fluffy cloud. Ephraim as the leading tribe of Israel was powerful and in the position to lead them in following God. Instead Ephraim proved to be a false leader, leading them to worship Baal.

There was a severe judgment pronounced on Ephraim for this lack of faithfulness. They would meet God as the judge, here pictured as a lion, a leopard and a distraught bear. To meet any one of these animals would be trial enough, but to meet all three would be severe judgment and punishment.

Later, Israel did meet with a terrible judgment. After a history of disrespect towards God, His prophets and leaders, Israel was subdued by the Assyrians. Many were carried away to Assyria. Strange tribes of people were brought in to live among those who were left in the land. Their religion became a combination of heathen worship and the rituals of the Law. Eventually, they nearly disappeared from the earth, through intermarriage and their corrupted religion. By the time of Ezra's return to Jerusalem, there were very few of the ten northern tribes who were identifiable as the worshippers of God.

Although God dealt with them in a more direct way than He seemingly does with us, that does not mean that we will not have to face His judgment. We have received so much more than those of the Old Testament times. We have been the recipients of a "So Great Salvation" purchased through the blood of Jesus Christ. They could only look forward to a future sacrifice, that was pictured in the rituals and requirements of the Mosaic Law. We have what



was their future.

Having received such a precious Gift, we should strive to fulfill the promise of our lives. When we became a part of God's family, we each had a promise of faithful service. Our new lives are a promise of a faithful witness to the world around us as well and an encouragement to our fellow believers. This surrounding promise is not just spoken words, but a willing lifetime of service and love.

How often are we but empty clouds? How often are we like the dew, that delivers a little bit of moisture, but not nearly enough. Do these pictures describe our lives? We are not bad or unfaithful people. It is that God does not have the highest priority in our lives. There are so many other things that hold our attention and labor. We produce a little dew, but no real moisture.

Are you the fluffy cloud, the light dew, the chaff, or the puff of smoke? Do you fulfill the promise of a life lived to God's glory and for the good of others? Be all that God expects and equips you to be.

M.C.Cook

## **SPEAK PLAINLY**

II Corinthians 3:12, "Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech:"

Habakkuk 2:2, "And the Lord answered me, and said, write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it."

I Corinthians 14:8, "For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?"

A man came to Confucius many years ago and asked him, "What can a teacher do to best benefit his students?" Confucius answered, "Give the right definition of things." In other words, speak plainly. There should be no doubt about our stand as Christians. I Corinthians 14:33 tells us that God is not the author of confusion. Psalm 71:1, a psalm of David, says, "In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust: let me never be put to confusion."

We recently wrote an article which was published in the No-

vember 2001 Monitor regarding the Harry Potter books. We totally trusted our sources, but it seems that some of the quotations used may have been satirical. They came from a humor web-site called the Onion. Those of us who understand the Word of God also must understand the enemy. Confusion is one of the enemy's most useful tools. We must speak plainly.

If I told you, in jest, that I eat newborn babies for breakfast, you would probably know I was kidding, but a young child would question my statement, and probably not ever trust my word again. Those who jest about witchcraft are soft-pedaling the seriousness of the subject, just as sinners joke about hell. The fact is, when someone makes a statement like this, there will always be someone to believe it, and in most cases, the person making the statement is really telling the truth.

Do we apologize for our article? Though some of the quotations were written in a satirical vein, and we are sorry for that, yet we cannot say for sure if those who wrote them are really writing satirically or not. We do believe, however, that the article's warning about the confusion emanating from Harry Potter is well founded, and we must continue to warn others of this deception.

This is just like our stand against the deception of television. There are good things on television. It sucks you in, until you are believing a lot of the things found there. This writer grew up with television and knows how deceptive this thing can be. Even radio can be deceptive. On Halloween Eve, 1938, the Mercury Theater of the Air broadcast H. G. Well's WAR OF THE WORLDS. People in New Jersey thought they were being invaded by Martians. That is why we must put our trust in God's Word. If you cannot be sure about what is seen on television, the Internet, radio, or other media, you can be sure of the Word of God. It is entirely trustworthy.

We who have the Hope of Christ will not try to fool you. We will use great plainness of speech. Witchcraft today is an honest profession. Palm readers and fortune-tellers today advertise in newspapers and appear on television. They are looked up to, yet the Bible tells us not to suffer a witch to live. Those who deal in familiar spirits abound today, having best-sellers on the book lists and popular television series, yet they cannot prove, no can be

disproven, that they talk to the dead. Children's books have graduated into portraying witchcraft. All they have to do is convince you that there is nothing wrong with it, or by joking about it, just like the person who says he will be happy in hell, because all his friends will be there. You will not hear us joking about hell, or about witchcraft, because we, as Christians, know the power of the forces of evil.

Oftimes we hear the question, "What is wrong with it?" When this question is asked, I say, "Get away from the edge!" If we were standing at the edge of a cliff, would it be all right to sit down and swing your legs over? We should get back from the edge and say rather, "What is right with it? Does it have any redeeming value at all? Will it bring me closer to God? Can I thank Him for it? Is it trustworthy?"

"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:13-14.

Brother Lynn H. Miller  
70 Round Barn Road  
Newmanstown, PA 17073

## **THANK GOD — NO LONGER A SERVANT OF SIN**

"But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness." Romans 6:17-18.

At the time this is being written our country is in great turmoil. Not only are many wondering what there is to be thankful for, but the question is often posed, "Where is God in all this?" As the children of God we may not have an answer that will satisfy the unsaved, but we should have an answer that brings peace and thankfulness to our hearts.

The Apostle Paul reminds us that we were the servants of sin. All of us were born with the carnal, adamic, sinful nature. Many, if



not most, of us allowed this nature to have control before we accepted Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. We believe God has also placed the free will to reject His offer of salvation within the heart of every child that is born. The final destiny of those who never hear the plan of salvation is in the hands of a just God. Our responsibility is to make His plan known to those to whom He sends us.

Anyone who is not a child of God is a servant of sin. This is the ultimate answer to the turmoil in our country and in the world.

THANK GOD we have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered to us. Most of all, that form of doctrine is made reality by the shed blood of Jesus Christ upon Calvary. One of the reasons, we believe, that God shined His blessing upon America, though we do not believe that its origin was according to scripture, was because the vast majority of the churches at one time taught and preached this ultimate truth. Will God allow judgment to come upon a nation where many churches are now teaching that all religions are different roads to God?

THANK GOD we have been made free from sin. Does this mean that we are now completely sinless? There are those who teach this. We believe that the Apostle Paul is referring to his thesis that we are no longer servants to sin. In verse 14 of this same chapter he informs us, "For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace." In Galatians 5:19-21 we read, "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revelings, and such like: of which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God." Other Scriptures add to this list, sins that are either ignored or actually made respectable by modern church leaders. There is no doubt in our mind that a true child of God can struggle with things that are listed as works of the flesh. Are there any among us that have never struggled with hatred, strife and envying? But we conveniently list these as "lesser sins." Unconditional eternal security, by inference, denies what the Bible says. We are per-

suaded that sin of any type that controls our lives will keep us from salvation if we are not willing to forsake it and will sever our relationship to God if it becomes a problem in a Christian's life. This is a sober thought that should cause all of us to take note of what rules our life.

THANK GOD we have become servants of righteousness. It should be our desire to be true to Holy Scripture in all things. At times of national crisis, such as was experienced on September 11, 2001, there is often a call for prayer. Prayer is always appropriate and we are thankful for government leaders that recognize this need. However, at the same time those who called for righteousness were not accepted by the majority it seems.

THANK GOD for our freedom in the Lord Jesus Christ. A freedom that surpasses national freedom. Are we really thankful? Are we thankful enough to suffer for our faith?

THANK GOD FOR SALVATION THROUGH THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST so that we are no longer a servant to sin!

Brother James M. Hite  
816 E. Birch St.  
Palmyra, PA 17078-2704

## **BIBLE STORIES**

### **THE CENTURION'S FAITH**

While Jesus was in Capernaum, an officer of the Roman army asked for His help. He was a centurion, which means that he was captain over one hundred soldiers. He may have been the most important Roman officer in that city. It was his duty to keep the peace and no doubt he had heard Jesus talk, as he would want to make sure Jesus wasn't saying anything that might make the people rebel against Rome. As he heard Jesus teach the people to love one another and saw Him do miracles of healing, he learned to respect and know Jesus better than many others did.

One day the centurion's servant, who was very dear to him, was sick and about to die. The centurion heard that Jesus was close by and sent some of the most important Jews to ask Him to come and heal his servant. When these Jews came to Jesus they

said, "This man is worthy, for he loves our nation and has even built us a synagogue." (We would say a "church house").

Jesus went with them and when they came close to the centurion's home, the centurion sent some of his friends out to meet Jesus, and they repeated what he had told them, "Lord, trouble not yourself, for I am not worthy that you should come to my house. I didn't think myself worthy to come to you, but just say the word and my servant shall be healed. For I also am a man under authority, and I say 'go' to this soldier and he goes and 'do this' to another and he does it."

When Jesus heard this He marveled and said unto the people that followed Him, "I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel."

And when the centurion's friends returned they found the servant well and strong that had been sick. I think they must have all been very happy, don't you?

The centurion, a Roman soldier was the first to see that Jesus was not only one who could heal and teach, but was also a Ruler and a King! He had seen more in Jesus than the Jews whose Messiah He really was.

Brother Rudy Cover

## MARRIAGE

### ST. JOHN-BROWN

Sister Colleen St. John, daughter of Dennis and Donna St. John of Bryan, Ohio and Brother George Brown, son of Martin and Joan Brown of West Gardiner, Maine, were united in marriage November 3, 2001. They are residing at P.O. Box 575, West Unity, OH 43570.

## OBITUARY

### IONA RUSH

Sister Iona Pauline Rush, 87, formerly of Converse, Indiana died Tuesday, December 25, 2001, at Dukes Memorial Hospital in Peru, Indiana.



She was the daughter of Albert and Lydia (Kendall) Lantz.

Iona was born on July 5, 1914. She married Harley Rush in Wabash County, Indiana on February 21, 1942. He survives at the nursing home in Peru where they resided for the past few years.

Also surviving are a son, Dale (Sue) Rush, Peru, Indiana; two daughters, Margaret (Harliss) Birt, Wabash, Indiana and Clarice (Robert) Carpenter, Peru, Indiana; twelve grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Two sisters, three brothers and a great-granddaughter are deceased.

Iona was a charter member of the Plevna Dunkard Brethren Church. She was a custodian at the Converse City Hall from 1965 until her retirement in 1992.

Services were held, December 28, 2001, at 2:00 P.M. in the Plevna Dunkard Brethren Church. Officiating ministers were Elder Harley Flory and Elder Lloyd Lorenz. Burial was in the Kendall Cemetery.

The singing was by the grandchildren and the following two poems, written by two of the grandsons, were used at the service.

The family would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, visits, flowers and so forth given to Iona and Harley, and the rest of the family, at this time and through their years in the nursing home.

May God richly bless each and every one of you.

Please continue to remember Bro. Harley as he goes through this time of loneliness in missing his companion of almost sixty years.

#### The Family

#### **GRANDMA'S HANDS**

Grandma's hands were never idle  
Their labor never ended,  
They were always serving others  
As to their needs she tended.

Grandma's hands were never idle  
As her dear children grew,  
She was always busy loving

And caring for them too.

Grandma's hands were never idle  
Throughout all her years,  
She was always there  
To wipe another's tears.

Grandma's hands were never idle  
When another was in need,  
She was always busy  
Doing a good deed.

Now her hands are still not idle  
For in Heaven she serves her Lord.  
Her service here below  
Earth could not afford.

-Marlin Carpenter

### **THE GREATEST WOMAN I EVER KNEW**

The greatest woman that I ever knew,  
Always had plenty of time for you.  
She was a wife, a mom, and grandmother,  
She spent her days helping others.

Sewing, gardening, cooking, working every day,  
Only to give the fruits of her labor away.  
Harsh words for anyone, she hadn't any,  
She was a person I could only hope to be.

She was so good, honest, and pure,  
Now gone on to meet our Savior.  
My only regret is,  
Why couldn't I have found more time for her?

-Brian Carpenter

## FEBRUARY 2002 ISSUE

### STANDING INFORMATION

#### EDITORIAL POLICY

That it be the policy of the Bible Monitor to exclude controversial material and material opposing, questioning or reflecting on the decisions or positions of the Church as determined by the General Conference or derogatory thereto. Also all other material not of proper standard or spiritual value for a church paper.

That supervision over the matter to be published in the Bible Monitor be exercised by the Publication Board.

#### PRINTED MATERIAL

The following Dunkard Brethren publications are available to anyone, from the Boards listed.

#### GENERAL MISSION BOARD

The following tracts are free:  
Please order from closest distributor:

Merle Sweitzer  
13227 Fishel Road  
Felton, PA 17322

Paul Stump  
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Englewood, OH 45322

Fred O. Pifer  
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Adel, IA 50003

Milton Cook  
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Beaumont, CA 92223

Why Triune Baptism  
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What Shall I Do With The  
Commandments Of Jesus  
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#### PUBLICATION BOARD

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ea., \$5.10 doz.

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The New Testament History  
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No charge for the following:

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### **SUGGESTIONS TO CONTRIBUTORS**

We are submitting several suggestions as a help to contributors in preparing material for the Bible Monitor. These suggestions will also make the work easier for both the editor and the writer.

1. Become familiar with the Editorial Policy and do not use subjects or statements which conflict with this plan of the Bible Monitor.

2. Place your name and address at the close of the article. We deem it more appropriate to sign as Brother or Sis-

ter.

3. Do not make sentences too long. A number of short sentences are better than a long involved sentence, which is difficult to punctuate and in which the real meaning of the writer's thought may be lost.

4. It will be appreciated if you gather a particular thought or thoughts and their proving Scripture quotations into paragraphs. Set these apart from the rest of the article by setting in the first line of each paragraph about the space of three letters

5. Do not crowd your words or punctuation marks close together. Do not use slang or abbreviated words such as, "thot" for "thought", "2" for "two", "&" for "and", "etc." for "and so forth".

6. Write or type on one side of the paper only. Double spacing of lines is much preferred. Do not make the lines the full width of the sheet, leave at least a one inch margin on each side of the sheet.

7. Use direct quotations for the Scripture references. Please copy wording and punctuation just as it appears in the

King James Version of the Bible. Given thus: book, chapter, and verse. "Jesus wept." John 11:35.

8. Frequent mistakes we find: "beleive" for "believe"; "recieve" for "receive"; "ore" for "or"; "&" for "and".

9. In submitting selected material, give the name of the author and publication in which it appeared, if known, and add "selected by" and your name.

10. To be certain that an item is in a certain issue, your editor should have this item at least thirty days prior to the date of that issue.

11. The Publication Board has decided that News Items should contain material of general interest to the Brotherhood. Therefore items of only local interest should not be included in News Items, such as local Sunday School officers, District Meeting delegates, minor local church property improvements and items, "In Memoriam".

12. Read these, then write.

### **FIXED COMMUNION DATES**

Third Sat. March - Quinter, KS

Sat. before Easter - Pleasant Home, CA

First Sat. April - Dallas Center, IA

Fourth Sat. April - West Fulton, OH

Last Sat. April - Grandview, MO

Last Sun. April - Bethel, PA

First Sun. May - Waynesboro, PA

Third Sat. May - Dayton, VA

Third Sun. May - Lititz, PA

Fourth Sun. May - Shrewsbury, PA

Sat. before First Sun. Aug. -  
Broadwater Chapel, MD

First Sun. Oct. - Walnut Grove, MD

Third Sat. Oct. - Dayton, VA

Third Sun. Oct. - Lititz, PA

Fourth Sat. Oct. - Englewood, OH

Last Sun. Oct. - Bethel, PA

First Sat. Nov. - Pleasant Home,  
CA

First Sun. Nov. - Shrewsbury, PA

### **AUDITING COMMITTEE**

Marvin Lorenz  
11067 County Rd. 27-1  
West Unity OH 43570  
419-924-2120

Marlin Marks  
3027 Acorn Lane  
Red Lion, PA 17356  
717-246-9193

## **GOSSIP, BOTH, VERBAL AND BY MAIL**

A. Elders, other officials and all others are admonished that being busybodies in other men's matters is contrary to Scripture. It should not be indulged in, as it causes complaint and interference with the spiritual life and work of those concerned. This applies especially where there may be trouble in the church, both to local members and those elsewhere, talking and writing about those matters.

B. When advice is sought of an official in any church matter he (the official) should be exceedingly careful in giving advice, so as not to interfere in any way with proper care of difficulties, by officials whose business they are. Elders and all others should, in seeking advice, begin at home when at all possible and be careful to proceed regularly and in brotherly love.

C. In correspondence, care should be exercised not to make statements that may be construed as derogatory to any member. If such things are done, full responsibility must be understood as being assumed by the writer.

D. Caucusing, that is the talking over and planning by groups, what to do or how to move in any particular matter is unprofitable, causative of distress and trouble and should not be indulged in by officials or anyone else.

E. Talking or circulating of what was done in council, either to members, who were not present, or to outsiders, is irregular and un-Christian and should not be indulged in.

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## **LOCATION OF CHURCH HOUSES**

### **BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA**

Located on Route 419, five miles east of Bethel, which is one mile south of Interstate 78, Rehrersburg Exit 17. The Church and school are located together. The telephone number is 717-933-5510.

### **BROADWATER CHAPEL, MARYLAND**

Located on Savage River Road in Garrett County, Maryland  
From Cumberland, Maryland, travel west on Interstate 68, 20

# DIRECTORY OF INFORMATION

CONGREGATION	NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
Bethel, PA	Della Ebling	81 Dry Hollow Rd, Bernville, PA 19506	610-488-7185
Broadwater Chapel, MD	Ronald Sines	16307 Maple View Dr. S. W Frostburg, MD 21532	301-689-1563
Clearville, PA	Eldon Mallow	467 Miller Road, Clearville, PA 15536	814-784-3488
Dallas Center, IA	Ray R. Reed	302 Percival, Dallas Center, IA 50063	515-992-3031
Dayton, VA	Eugene Kauffman	313 Park Avenue, Broadway, VA 22815	703-896-3104
Englewood, OH	Paul Stump	10340 N. Diamond Mill Road, Englewood, OH 45322	937-836-6559
Goshen, IN	Reinhold Gunderman	58737 C.R. 115, Goshen, IN 46526	219-875-5684
Grandview, MO	Carl E. Reed	4716 E. 139th Street, Grandview, MO 64030	816-761-5715
Hart, MI	Ronald Marks	1813 North 136th Avenue, Hart, MI 49420	231-873-2113
Littiz, PA	James Eberly	P.O. Box 504, Terre Hill, PA 17581	215-445-4515
McClave, CO	Warren Smith	26270 Highway 50, McClave, CO 81057	719-829-4521
Mohlers, PA	John Peffer	150 Wolfs Bridge Road, Carlisle, PA 17013	717-243-8328
Mountainview, CO	Oty Reed	68230 Miami Rd, Montrose, CO 81401	719-829-4511
Mount Zion, PA	Kenneth Wilkerson	1260 Pine Grove Rd, Fredericksburg, PA 17026	717-865-5852
Newberg, OR	Galen Litfin	1314 East 7th Street, Newberg, OR 97132	503-538-2668
Pine Ridge, MS	John Meyers	560 Sellers Road Moselle, MS 39459	601-582-7730
Pleasant Home, CA	Hayes Reed	1433 Overholzer Drive, Modesto, CA 95355	209-523-2753
Pleasant Ridge, OH	Tom St. John	20380 Co. Rd. R, Avordton, OH 43501	419-924-5242
Plevna, IN	Robert Carpenter	6150 E 775S Peru, IN 46970	765-395-7879
Quinter, KS	Gordon Jamison	2271 Co. Rd. 74, Quinter, KS 67752	785-754-3639
Ridge, WV	Otto Harris	H.C. 75, Box 131, New Creek, WV 26743	304-749-7518
Shrewsbury, PA	Fern Ness	136 Homeland Road, York, PA 17403	717-741-1607
South Fulton, IL	Martha Harmon	R. 1 Box 96, Industry, IL 61440	309-254-3258
Swallow Falls, MD	Edith Yoder	100 General Kelly Rd, Oakland, MD 21550	301-334-6096
Torreon Navajo Mission, NM	David Skiles	HCR 79 Box 8, Cuba, NM 87013	505-731-2292
Walnut Grove, MD	Emmett Skelly	460 California Rd., Littles town, PA 17340	717-359-4975
Waynesboro, PA	Frank E. Shaffer	13055 Grant Shook Road, Greencastle, PA 17225	717-597-4730
West Fulton, OH	Charles Leatherman	1-18158-H, Wauseon, OH 43567	419-337-6593
Winterhaven, CA	Milton Cook	1138 East 12th Street, Beaumont, CA 92223	909-845-6231

miles to Lower New Germany Road (Exit 24). Turn left or south under the Interstate three-tenths mile, turn right on Lower New Germany Road. Go 3.8 miles, turn left on Westernport Road. Go 3.8 miles, turn right on Savage River Road. Go 3.9 miles to church on left.

From Morgantown, West Virginia area travel east on Interstate 68 to Lower New Germany Road (Exit 24). Turn right, go three tenths mile, turn right on Lower New Germany Road and follow above directions.

Traveling east or west on U.S.Route 50 take U.S. Route 220 north. Take Maryland Route 135 at McCoolle (just north of Keyser, West Virginia, on Maryland side of bridge) go seven miles on Route 135 (passing through Westernport and past WESTVACO Paper Mill) to Savage River Road. Turn right on Savage River Road, go 12.5 miles to church on right

#### CLEARVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Clearville Congregation is located in South-Central Pennsylvania, 16 miles south of Everett and about six miles south of Clearville. From Everett take Rt. 26 to Clearville. At Clearville go straight south, leaving Rt. 26, which turns right. Go 1.5 miles, turn right at the fork. The church is five miles on left side of road. Services are held every Sunday at 10:00 AM.

#### DALLAS CENTER, IOWA

Dallas Center is located on Rt. 44, twenty-four miles northwest of Des Moines. Turn off Rt.44 unto Quinlan Avenue at west edge of Dallas Center. The church is located at 2323 Quinlan Avenue, three-fourth mile north on the west side of the road.

#### DAYTON, VIRGINIA

Turn west from Interstate 81 at Harrisonburg Exit #245. Go to fourth stop light, Rt.42, turn left to Dayton, 3.5 miles right on Rt. 257, two blocks.

#### ENGLEWOOD, OHIO

Twelve miles north of Dayton, Ohio, Rt 40 and Rt 48 cross at the center of Englewood. Church house is located on the right of



Rt 48, one block north of this junction.

### GOSHEN, INDIANA

Located on Green Road, one block north of County Rd 130. Take U.S.33 or Indiana 15 to Goshen. Turn west at police booth. Four blocks beyond bridge, turn right on North Indiana Ave., go one block. Turn left on West Clinton Street. Go one mile to Green Road, turn right and go one block. The church is located on the east side of the road.

### GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI

The Grandview Church is located south of Grandview. Take the west access road of 71 Highway 1.5 miles south to 140th Street. Turn west and go to second street, turn south one block.

### HART, MICHIGAN

From Muskegon go north on Rt. 31 to Hart Exit. Go left from freeway about 1.5 miles to tee in road. Turn right and go approximately one half mile to church on left side of road.

### LITITZ, PENNSYLVANIA

Coming from the south on Route 501, turn right on Newport Road, which is about a mile north of Lititz. Coming from the north turn left on Newport Road. Go to second crossroads, turn right. The white church is on the right.

### MOHLERS, PENNSYLVANIA

Mohler Meetinghouse - Located near Route 15 on Old Gettysburg Road, south of Mechanicsburg. Coming from the South take the Rossmoyne/Wesley Drove Exit off Route 15. Make a left unto Rossmoyne Road and another left on Old Gettysburg Road. The meetinghouse is on the left after you travel about one-half mile. Coming from the north you will exit onto Rossmoyne Road and make a left onto Old Gettysburg Road.

Brightbill Meetinghouse - Located on U.S. Route 322, 2.5 miles east of Campbelltown, Pennsylvania in Lebanon County. The meeting house is a grey limestone building.

## RIDGE, WEST VIRGINIA

From Interstate 68, which transverses east and west through western Maryland, proceed to Cumberland, Maryland. Take Route 220 South through Keyser, West Virginia to US 50. (You will need to take a left turn to continue following Route 220.) Turn east (left) on US 50 and proceed to Ridgeville. Turn right (south) onto Knobley Road.

Follow Knobley Road 7.8 miles (The Antioch Church of God will be on your right). Turn left onto Harness Run Road (which is unpaved). Keep to the right at the "Y" and proceed 1.5 miles to the Ridge church house on the left.

Coming from the east or west on US 50, turn south onto Knobley Road at Ridgeville, and follow the above directions (from Knobley Road to the church).

## SHREWSBURY, PENNSYLVANIA

Fourteen miles south of York on Rt 111, at the north end of the town of Shrewsbury.

## SWALLOW FALLS, MARYLAND

Church address is: 2191 Swallow Falls Road., Oakland, MD 21550. Take Maryland Rt. 219 North of Oakland 5.5 miles or South of I 68, 18 miles to Mayhew Inn Road. West on Meyhew Inn Road to the stop sign (4.2 miles). Bear left onto the Oakland- Sang Run Road for .3 mile to the Swallow Falls Road. Turn right onto the Swallow Falls Road for .3 mile. The Church will be on your left.

## WALNUT GROVE, MARYLAND

Church address is: 4000 Kump Station Road, Taneytown, MD 21787. From Littlestown, PA travel Route 194 south toward Maryland. After crossing PA/MD line (this is shortly after Kingsdale Firehouse on right), turn left onto second hard road on your left, which is Kump Station Road. Follow this road approximately one fourth mile to brick church house on right.

From Taneytown, MD, take Route 194 north three miles. Turn right onto Kump Station Road. Brick church house is on right, approximately one fourth mile.

**WAYNESBORO, PENNSYLVANIA**

Church is located in west side of town, on the corner of Ridge and Third Streets. Turn south of Route 16 on Fairview Avenue, go two blocks and turn left on Third Street, church house is one block.

**WEST FULTON, OHIO**

Near Wauseon, Ohio, located on U.S. Rt. 20 Alternate, 3.5 miles west of the junction of Ohio Rt. 108 and U.S. 20 Alternate.

**WINTERHAVEN, CALIFORNIA**

Located in Cherry Valley. Coming north of Beaumont on Beaumont Avenue, turn right on Brookside, go to Jonathan, turn left, go one block to Lincoln, turn right and go to church house, which is on left side of road. Coming east on I-10 exit at Cherry Valley Blvd, go to end of road at Noble. Turn right go two blocks to Lincoln, turn left go to church house on left side of road. Coming west on I-10 exit at Highland Springs Road. Turn right, go to Brookside, turn left, go to Winesap, turn right, go one block to Lincoln, turn left. Church house is on right side of road.

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## NEWS ITEMS

### 2002 GENERAL CONFERENCE

We are pleased to announce that the Memorial Holiness Camp has been operating again this past year. They will be able to accommodate us again this year for our General Conference. The Lord willing, General Conference will be held June 8-12, 2002 at the Camp on Jay Road near West Milton, Ohio. More information will be given later.

Reservations should be sent to:

Brother Don Hostetler  
8483 Arcanum-Bears Mill Rd.  
Greenville, OH 45331

Brother Paul Stump, Arrangements Committee  
DALLAS CENTER, IOWA

The Lord willing, the Dallas Center, Iowa Congregation will hold a revival meeting starting March 10 through March 17. Bro. Dennis St. John will be our evangelist. The meetings will close with Lovefeast Services on March 16 and 17. We would appreciate any who can come and worship with us. Pray for the meetings.

Sister Mary Meyers, Cor.

### PLEASANT RIDGE, OHIO

Our Revival Meetings will be March 22-31, with Bro. David Skiles the evangelist. The Communion Services will be March 30-31, beginning at 2:00 P.M. on Saturday with Lovefeast at 7:00 P.M. Saturday evening, and services Sunday morning and afternoon. No evening service on Sunday.

We welcome all who can to join us in these meetings.

Sister Marjorie Flory, Cor.

### SWALLOW FALLS, MARYLAND

The Swallow Falls Congregation welcomes you to join us for our spring Revival Meetings with Bro. Paul Hartz sharing God's Word with us. The meetings will be held March 22 through March 31, Lord willing. Come praying, and enjoy a time of fellowship together!

Sister Edith Yoder, Cor.



## PLEVNA, INDIANA

The Plevna Congregation invites you to our revival meetings, March 24 through 31, 2002, Lord willing.

Bro. Mark Cordrey is to be our evangelist. Evening services begin at 7:30 P.M. Saturday, March 30, we plan to have examination service at 2:00 P.M. and Lovefeast Service in the evening at 7:00 P.M.

Your presence and prayers are welcome.

Sister Margaret Birt, Cor.

## HART, MICHIGAN

The close of another year has brought many experiences. The greatest experience that will be remembered, was September 11, 2001. Actually, it was comforting to my heart, knowing that God could have stopped it all. And because He didn't, I feel in my heart that He had a purpose in it all. God is behind the scenes, working His perfect will. Let us not lose heart in these last days. "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." Phil. 4:6.

The Lord willing, the Hart Dunkard Brethren Congregation will host District Meeting of the Second District. The date is set for April 5-6, 2002. Lovefeast following Saturday evening. All are welcome.

Sister Anna M. Powell, Cor.

## THANK YOU

Thanks to all our Dear Brothers and Sisters for remembering us with your prayers, cards and words of encouragement.

The Lord has been good to us. I thank Him for bringing me through this new adjustment in life. Through it all I feel so much closer to Him. I rejoice and it strengthens my faith to feel His presence with me. He makes no mistakes and does all things right.

Someday we look forward to having that new body, peace, joy and happiness for ever more. Praise His Holy Name!

Psalms 28:7, "The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth;

and with my song will I praise him."

Love and Prayers,  
Nelson and Dorcas Myers

### A NOTE TO WRITERS

When writing upon current event topics it is imperative that writers make sure of their sources of information. If those sources are not true or well balanced, damage can be done not only to our own reputation but to the reputations of others. Not everything that is in print is necessarily true. Using due care in writing on these subjects will make the final article, trustworthy and useful. Having done so, write for the Bible Monitor.

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR MARCH 2002

March 3 - Principles for the Married - I Cor. 7:1-24

1. In view of Paul's writing in II Cor. 6:14, "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers", why did he write here that a believer should continue to live with an unbelieving spouse?
2. Explain the phrase, "if the unbelieving depart...a brother or sister is not under bondage in such cases".

March 10 - Principles for the Unmarried - I Cor. 7:25-40

1. Explain Paul's statement, "He that is unmarried careth for the things that belong to the Lord...but he that is married careth for the things that are of the world".
2. What did Paul mean when he said, "...he that giveth her in marriage doeth well, but he that giveth her not in marriage doeth better"?

March 17 - To Eat or Not to Eat, That is the Question - I Cor. 8:1-13

1. How can knowledge puff up someone?
2. How can our use of liberty in Christ become a stumbling block to them that are weak?

March 24 - The Seal of Paul's Apostleship - I Cor. 9:1-14

1. What was the seal of Paul's Apostleship?
2. Why did Paul not claim all his "rights" as an Apostle?

March 31 - Resurrection Sunday - Mark 16:1-20

1. What is the significance of the Resurrection of Jesus on the first day of the week?
2. When Jesus first appeared to the eleven, for what did He upbraid them?

## **YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR MARCH 2002**

March 3 - Religion - Micah 6:8, James 1:21-27, II John 6-11

1. What does the Lord require of us?
2. How did James define pure religion?

March 10 - New Cloth - Matt. 9:16, Mark 2:21, Luke 5:36-39

1. What did Jesus mean when He said, "the new agreeth not with the old?"
2. What was the "new" idea that Jesus wanted His hearers to understand?

March 17 - Laborers in Vineyard - Matt. 20:1-16

1. Why did those who had labored all day expect to receive more than what they had agreed for a day of labor?
2. Why did this employer pay everyone the same amount? What truth was Jesus illustrating by this parable?

March 24 - Unmerciful Servant - Ps. 41:1-13, Matt. 5:7, 18:23-35

1. Why is it so important for us to extend mercy to others?
2. How has God extended mercy individually to each human being?

March 31 - The Resurrection - Matt. 16:21, 28:1-7, Mark 9:9, 16:6-10, Luke 24:11-18, John 2:19, 20:18-19

1. Why should it not have been a surprise to the disciples when Jesus arose from the grave?
2. Why were the disciples in fear of the Jews after the resurrection of Jesus?



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# BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXX

MARCH 2002

NO. 3

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

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OUR MOTTO: Scriptural in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,  
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

---

## WOULD YOU WIN A SOUL TO GOD?

Would you win a soul to God?

Tell him of a Savior's blood,

Once for dying sinners spilt,

To atone for all their guilt.

Tell him how the streams did glide

From his hands, his feet, his side;

How his head with thorns was crowned,

And his heart in sorrow drowned.

How he yielded up his breath;

How he agonized in death;

How he lives to intercede—

Christ, our Advocate and Head.

Tell him of that liberty

Wherewith Jesus makes us free;

Sweetly speak of sins forgiven—

Earnest of the joys of heaven.

-Wm. Hammond



## SURPRISE!

As the women approached the place where Jesus had been laid, they were carrying the spices they expected to use to perform their last service of respect to His body. They had not had enough time on Friday. With sunset fast approaching, they hurriedly had done what they could to prepare His body. They carefully noted where He had been laid so they could find it on the first day of week.

They were concerned about the huge stone that had been rolled in front of the entrance to the tomb. Hopefully, the soldiers, who had been posted as guards over the tomb, would be willing to roll the stone aside. They went hoping they could complete their service of love.

What a surprise when they arrived at the tomb. The stone was already rolled away. The soldiers were at their positions, but they appeared as dead men. They would be able to offer neither help nor hindrance to the women. To further confuse them, the body of Jesus was gone from the tomb. Only the empty graveclothes were left.

They were not the only ones who were surprised by these dramatic events. When Peter and John came, they raced to the tomb. Although John arrived first, Peter went into the empty tomb first. What had seemed like idle and incomprehensible words, when Jesus spoke of His death, burial and resurrection as He prepared them

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for this time, now took on a deeper meaning.

We wonder how these people could be so surprised after Jesus had repeatedly spoken to them about what would happen when they went up to Jerusalem. This was Peter who had confessed that Jesus was the Son of God. This was John who had been the closest to Jesus at the Supper in the Upper Room when He instituted the Lovefeast service. Yet, seemingly, they were unprepared for finding the tomb empty. These were His disciples whom He had trained for three and a half years.

As much as we might wonder at the Spiritual denseness of those caught by surprise on that first Easter, are we any less dense than they were? Would we have been any less surprised than they were? Consider with all that we know, which the disciples did not know or understand at the time, that still we are often surprised as events unfold in our Spiritual lives.

We are surprised to learn that prayer actually works. We have often heard that prayer is powerful but somehow it is relegated to the last resort in our life's troubles. It is the last prop as we sink under the overwhelming problems that engulf us. Rather than use prayer we use our own devices to meet these situations. So many times we find that if we had turned to prayer earlier the troubles would have been less daunting.

We are surprised to learn that fellowship is good for us. We are used to the modern methods of the world that emphasize competition. Each person tries to get ahead using his or her own talents and determination. There is a lack of cooperation. There is a spirit of vindictiveness as each tries to get ahead of the other. A benefit of the Church is the availability of others who can help share our burdens. No one has ever been able to do it all by himself. Everyone has had to have some kind of help along the way. Sometimes pride gets in the way of recognizing the need that we have for that helping hand. With Brothers and Sisters to offer support, whether it be physical, material or Spiritual, we have a great resource for help in time of need. We need to let our pride down so we can accept the help that is available.

We are surprised to learn that God means what He says in His

Word. Whether encouragement, commandment or fact, God has inspired the writers to put there what He wants us to know. Too often we make optional what He considers basic. The danger today is the disconnect between being a Christian and living a Christian life. There is a rightful emphasis placed upon the salvation of the lost, but a lack of teaching on the living of a life that honors God. A life that is not firmly rooted in the directions of God, can not be a life that will produce the fruit that He desires in each of our lives.

We may be surprised to learn that Jesus is coming again. After His resurrection, He spent forty days with His disciples preparing them for the work before them. After giving them the Great Commission, He ascended back to His Father in Heaven. He left them and us with the promise that He would return. When He returns what is He going to find even amongst the faithful? Will He find wise or foolish virgins?

Would you have been surprised that first Easter morning to have found the tomb empty? Will you be surprised when He comes again? What would be your Spiritual condition, if He were to come right now?

M.C.Cook

## **DEATH — BURIAL — AND RESURRECTION**

"Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:" Romans 6:3-5.

The Apostle Paul's description of death, burial and resurrection is also in description of our salvation experience. While many will think of Easter as a time to share the myth of the Easter bunny with children along with all the other activities that go along with it, the reality of Jesus Christ's death, burial and resurrection is often "put



on the back burner" or completely ignored. Like Christmas, there are some sincere Christians who refuse to recognize this holiday. For us the most important thing is to recognize that Christ's death, burial and resurrection was for the salvation of mankind.

The Apostle Paul teaches us that we were baptized into the death of Jesus Christ. The Brethren have taken this very literally and thus we have forward immersion, rather than the common backward immersion.

The Apostle Paul continues with what almost seems like a repetition. He says we are buried with Christ by baptism into death. When the Brethren instituted baptism for the forgiveness of sins they were not saying that water can wash away our sins. They also rejected the popular theory of their time that baptism, of itself, could provide salvation. Believer's baptism included more than merely the rejection of infant baptism. First of all, it recognized that the blood of Jesus Christ was what was needed to wash away our sins. However, at this time in history even those who baptized infants, as some who practice this today also do, acknowledge this fact. The difference was the Brethren taught an individual had to believe, or literally accept, the fact of Christ's shed blood for their sins. This acceptance was symbolized by their baptism. Thus the teaching that baptism is the final step in our salvation. To argue if someone can be saved without baptism is to enter into the sovereign territory of God, in our humble opinion. Likewise, to argue when an individual receives the Holy Spirit may be entering into what the Bible describes as foolish questions and debates. The Bible does record at least one instance when individuals received the Holy Spirit and then were baptized. It occurred to us that baptism may well be the time the Bible speaks of being sealed by the Holy Spirit. It may be like when an individual is paying for a property. For business purposes they can say that they are the owner. In reality this is not true until the final payment is made.

The Apostle Paul next admonishes us that as Christ was raised up from the dead even so should we walk in newness of life. The Brethren taught that salvation is a life long experience. They rejected the unconditional eternal security of their day. They also taught that an individual's lifestyle proved their salvation experi-

ence. It may have been, as it is today, that this led to a false assumption concerning their separation from the world. The plain coat which most of our brethren wear today was not a part of the original Brethren attire. They, however, did teach a certain type of dress for both brethren and sisters. As styles of the world changed the brethren thought it wise to adopt a certain type of coat for dress. But we do not believe there was ever a time when dress was considered to be their salvation.

Walking in newness of life goes way beyond how we dress. Modesty is an important, and seemingly almost lost, part of the Christian's life. How we treat our fellow brothers and sisters is also an important part of the new walk. Unfortunately, to speak against worldly actions is often misconstrued as being legalists and unloving.

Finally the Apostle Paul says we shall be also in the likeness of Christ's resurrection. Praise God, if we are faithful we will one day have a glorified body. This is the reality of Easter.

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### **RESURRECTION DAY?, VICTORY?**

One dismal black night in Jerusalem town,  
Disciples sat weeping, each face wore a frown.  
"Why?" they exclaimed, and "How could this be?  
They've crucified Christ and set robbers free.  
And us, what of us? Where will our shame go?  
Who deserted our Master in His hour of woe."  
"What now?" wondered John, as to his knees he fell.  
"For dead is the hope of all Israel!"  
Peter sat weeping, face hidden in shame;  
"And I, I denied that I knew my Lord's name."  
But as the Apostles sat hopeless, afraid,

Not far away  
From the place Jesus lay,  
Great changes were about to be made.  
For there in the sky shone a bright heavenly light;  
Like a fiery comet streaking through the night.  
It wove through the clouds to the old garden tomb.  
And found empty shrouds in the little dark room.  
With angelic power, the stone rolled away,  
And a mighty earthquake,  
Made all Israel shake,  
To herald the new dawning day.  
The angel sat waiting on top of the stone,  
As all of his garments with radiance shone.  
He waited and watched through the fast-fleeting gloom,  
For those who would come to anoint Jesus' tomb.  
And the women did come,—  
What a shock they received,  
When they found the tomb void,  
And He whom they grieved,  
Was risen with glory! Ascended on high!  
Christ was alive - the One they had watched die!  
"Go tell my Disciples," Jesus said unto them,  
"And all those that love me in Jerusalem,  
That now I am risen, from death I am free;  
And I go before you into Galilee.  
Tell them I have conquered death, hell, and the grave.  
I died, and I live, that mankind I might save."  
The disciples were told,  
But wrestled with doubt:



For who, from the grave, had e'er let himself out?  
While all stood in wonder  
And believe, no one would,  
Just then came the Master, and in their midst stood.  
He looked on them gently and said, "Have no fear.  
See the print of the nails and the mark of the spear;  
And know for yourselves that I really am here.  
Then go tell the message across this great sphere:  
There's freedom, salvation, and life from the dead,  
For those who in faith will step boldly ahead,  
And believe on the Christ, who can save from all sin,  
Who receive the great cleansing and new life within."

This message they carried the whole world o'er,  
Of peace, and of hope, and of life evermore.  
And when Christians meet on Eternity's shore,  
We'll all stand and praise our magnificent King,  
And with hosts of the righteous we'll shout and we'll sing:  
"Grave, where is thy victory? Death where thy sting?"

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## **ONE IS TAKEN, AND THE OTHER LEFT**

Acts 12:1-25

This is one of the passages that leave our minds spinning. We simply cannot understand the mind of God. "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!" (Romans 11:33). James is taken and Peter is miraculously delivered. That is some-

thing only God can understand. We can see how God used Peter as a significant pillar in the formation of the Church. But we read nothing else about James the disciple of Jesus (son of Alphaeus and brother of John) in the book of Acts (other than in Acts 1:13, where he is listed with the other eleven). I wonder what kind of person James was.

Here in Acts 23, we see that instead of just the Jews persecuting the new sect of believers in Jesus, now Herod the king takes up the cause. This is the beginning of the massive Roman persecution of the Christians.

When King Herod took Peter, I do not suppose there was much hope left for him, other than the deliverance which the angel of the Lord had performed in Acts 5:19. James was beheaded and Peter was next in line. Just look at the number of soldiers who were specially commissioned to watch over Peter to be sure he did not escape!

One of the keys to Peter's deliverance is in verse 5. After the execution of James, the people of the Church really took Peter's imprisonment seriously. They prayed "without ceasing." Whereas before, Peter and John were delivered from prison by a miracle; but the death of James sobered them up. The details of Peter's deliverance are fascinating. Notice Peter's unquestioning obedience. (How do you think Peter could sleep that night?)

The servant girl who answered Peter's knock at the gate could not believe it actually was Peter who was knocking in the middle of the night! She was overjoyed, and without letting him in, ran and told those in Mary's household who were gathered in a prayer meeting on behalf of Peter. They thought she had gone nuts. Peter continued knocking. They, finally, were faced with reality: God had miraculously released Peter!

After the joyous reunion, Peter discreetly "went into another place." He got out of there! Herod was very upset—so much so that he had the sixteen soldiers who were in charge of keeping Peter put to death.

The last portion of this passage describes the miserable death of Herod. The Herods were ungodly men, and this particular Herod

was especially wicked. Note carefully that God does not like it when anyone accepts worship and praise that belongs to Him.

**Summary Thought...** We need to be resigned to the will of God, whether it be persecution and death, or deliverance! It is in God's hands and we need to keep our trust in Him either way.

Respectfully Submitted  
Brother Robert S. Lehigh

## KENYA KNOTES

Hello!!!!

Well, we made it here to the compound this evening around 6:15. Had a good day of traveling. The cruiser handles nicely, is quiet and rides over the bumps a lot different than the old van. Praise the Lord!! Ray got the luggage rack on and we were able to put all the luggage on top which was nice.

When we went through security at Harrisburg they went through my brief case which gave me the opportunity to witness for the Lord as they opened and checked our bibles. We left there about twenty minutes late at 4:25 and then when we arrived at Detroit at 6:00 P.M. we had to wait for about ten to fifteen minutes as there was another plane in our gate. We were in the new wing that just opened on Sunday. We had to walk about a half mile or more to the other end of the concourse. When we got there they were already boarding and told us to hurry. I checked in and the man said that he wanted to check my bags. They went through everything and checked me. Even had to take my shoes off. We left Detroit at 7:30 and got to Amsterdam at 8:50. Had to go half way across the airport here also. Justin did not have a boarding pass and all the rest of us were seated separately from Detroit and were to be seated separately to Nairobi, so we went to see if we could get Justin's boarding pass and had to walk back one concourse to get it changed. We were able to get together that flight.

The flight from Detroit was about full and was hot so none of us got much sleep. Also all the overhead space was full and I had to set with two things at my feet for a while till I found an empty seat to



put it under. When we boarded at Amsterdam the flight attendant said that they had forty empty seats. I asked if I could change to some empty ones to sleep. Later she came and said that there was a row that had three empty seats and that I better move or someone else would take it, so I was able to sleep for around three hours in all.

Got in to Nairobi at 8:55 P.M. Justin did not have his visa but did have all the paper work filled out before he left home. It did not take too long to get through customs. We were met by Ray's and Davidson. Boy, was he surprised that Merlin was along. Went to the guest house and slept decently till around 3:30, then prayed and studied for a while. Ray had to take Cherylin to get some abscessed teeth pulled early. When he got back we packed up and went to the Saritit center and got a few things then headed home around 11:00 A.M. Stopped at the place where they have those barbecue pits for lunch. Was delicious. Wish that we had stopped there when we were all here. Then on to Nakuru and stopped at Lamp and Light to check on some things and went to visit Debbie and Allen, but Allen was in Nairobi so visited with Debbie a little and made a short stop at Eldoret for groceries and then on home.

#### SATURDAY

I slept till about 7:30 this morning. Got around and went outside and was told that Florence wanted to talk to me so went over there. Hosea came out and grabbed me from behind and we talked awhile. Headed over to the house and here was Phenol and Francis. Then Patrick, Paul and others were here throughout the day. Sure was good to see the people again. Didn't realize how much I missed them.

We had a board meeting that started at 11:00 A.M. and lasted till 3:30 P.M. Had some good discussions and agendas with them. We quit early so the brethren could get home for services tomorrow. Walked up to the house. It will really set in there neat when it is all finished. It is ready to be leveled out and pour the slab for the floor then we will be ready to lay brick. Visited with Ray and when Cheryl called for supper the electric went off and has been off since so the generator is running. Welcome to Kenya!!

Tomorrow we are going to Kaptalomua for services. It looks

like there will be ten weddings to do so I may need a vacation when I get back home.

### SUNDAY

Gilbert, Paul and his two children went with us to Kaptalomwa for services. We got there early so had some time to visit. Services went well. Brother Gilbert had a short opening then I had the message. Have felt the Lord's direction to give a lesson on tearing down strong holds and capturing our thoughts from II Corinthians 10:1-6. After services we had a meal of lamb and broth, rice and boiled potatoes with tea and bread. Was good to have a Kenya prepared meal again. Needed to discuss a few things with a few members and left around 3:00 P.M. Got home a little after 4:30 and sat in on the evening service. Brother Caleb taught on Christ not answering before the Sanhedran and asked if we can remain quiet when having bitter words thrown in our face. I had to say hello to those who were here. It was raining so not too many were here. We had heavy rain in Kaptalomwa and most of the way home. It is still raining, I think. Ray is glad as he wants to start leveling out the house pad and it has been so dry that the ground does not pack very well, but will work better tomorrow.

### MONDAY

Was kept busy today with doing service to the vehicles. Changed oil and greased the cruiser, van and cycle. The cruiser took more oil than was here so I finished up all the others and then took the cycle to Kitali for oil and got some money exchanged. The back tire was a little low so I pumped it up and thought I would fix it when I got back. Got to Kitali and was on the way back, about two kilometers before Kessigon when I heard a pop and you know what happened. I was able to get off on the right side of the road and I thought now what since I did not have a cell phone to call Ray. There is not even a pay phone for how long! Two guys came walking and said that there was a place to get it fixed about a half kilometer ahead so I walked and put the cycle in first gear and got to the fundi. Here there were two holes in it but got them fixed in about forty-five minutes. When he was putting the tire back on we saw that on the side bead of the tire the wire was sticking out. He asked what I was going to do. I said I will try to get to Makutano. I



left and was going up the hill towards Martiguit where Alfred lives and it popped again. I decided that since the tire was bad that I would just ride it out but could only go 25 kilometers per hour, but I got home. Praise the Lord.

Cheryl had scrambled eggs for breakfast, Pizza for lunch and cooked cabbage and sausage for supper with fresh pineapple. How DELICIOUS UM UM!!!! After supper visited a while and here comes Peter and Rebecca to the back door. They had some questions about their wedding so we talked about that some. They wanted to know who is going to make the cake? Their date is the 16th along with Caleb and Phinice.

Tomorrow we are going up to Chepcornishwa to set some posts for the church as we took down the shed that they used to dry the brick and Ray needs to get more wood to make doors for the house. The church is meeting under the trees now and we are going to try and get the roof on so they have at least some shelter to worship in. It rained again this evening but was beautiful.

## TUESDAY

We had a good day today. Ray got his men started on the house and then we went to the phone company to complain about the phone not working. They had not recorded two payments but Ray had his receipts. Left there and went to Chepcornishwa to start on their church. Were they ever surprised. They did not know that we were coming. Francis could have danced a jig, I think. Ray helped to lay out the church. Then he, Davidson and two other men left, as he needed to get more wood. He left about 10:45 or so and did not get back till 5:00 P.M. Needless to say he did not anticipate going twenty-seven kilometers. It took him an hour and fifteen minutes going and an hour and thirty minutes coming back. They also had to carry the wood up the hill a ways. Justin, Merlin and I got sixteen posts set. It has been dry and was very hard. We had to put water in some of the holes to loosen up the dirt to dig and get it out of the hole. We finished a little before 5 and Louise had supper made for us. Ray pulled in when we were about to sit down to eat. We did not get home till about 7:00 and Cheryl had supper waiting. Leg of lamb with carrots and potatoes, noodles and string beans with orange flavored tapioca and an upside down



pineapple cake, but I could not eat much.

After supper I was going to get my shower early, but here Henry came and wanted to talk about his wedding so we called Paul and Milika to talk to both at the same time. They had little Cindy with them and she is even more of a doll than Miriam. Now it is 11:15 and I still need a shower so I guess that I will get going.

HELLO!

It hardly seems possible that I have been in Kenya for a week already. Only four and a half weeks left to go and a lot of work to be done till then. Hope that I can accomplish most of it. It is good to be able to do some work while I am here.

Today I stayed here and worked with the men on back filling the house. About half is completely leveled and ready for the septic plumbing which we are putting under the concrete. We hope to get started on the concrete next week, Lord willing.

Ray, Justin, Gilbert and Merlin went to Chepcornishwa to continue with the church there. The people there need to paint the lumber with used oil then they are ready for the iron sheets. We do not have all the posts in yet but they will at least be able to get out of the sun when the roof is on.

I will be quite busy this week end. Saturday we have Paul's and Henry's weddings. Sunday I am to preach here at Makutano and then we have Moses's wedding in the afternoon, so pray for me. I need to develop a new message for the weddings yet. I have most of the thoughts running in my mind. I just need to jot some notes and scripture references down before then.

Brother Merle Sweitzer

## **CHILDREN'S PAGE**

### **A GEM WITHOUT PRICE**

I Peter 3:3-4

"Mother," asked Rosemary, as she dropped her school books on the kitchen table. "Why do Christians dress plain?"

Mother, after peeping at the cheese and macaroni casserole in

the oven, which she had prepared for supper turned to smile at Rosemary. Her face became grave as she noticed tears on her daughter's face.

"What is the matter? Have you and your school friends been quarreling?"

"Darla is just as good a friend as ever, but I'm so tired of Helen's sneering remarks. She is so quick to make fun of someone if they are dressed different than the other girls in our class."

"Has she been making fun of your plain dress?"

"Yes, she said my dresses are way too long and simply made. She says it makes me look old-fashioned. She said I would be so much prettier if I would wear make-up, have my hair cut, and wear shorts and slacks like the other girls. She said if I would dress in modern clothes I could be among the most popular girls in my class!"

"Is Helen so popular in your class?" asked Mother.

"No, I don't think so. She complains too much and is afraid to play games outside at recess for fear she will spoil her clothes."

"What a shame! She misses a lot of good times doesn't she? Can you tell me why you are fond of your friend, Darla?"

"Well, I'm always glad to be with her. She is so kind and thoughtful. She never makes fun of others and thinks of interesting things to tell and do!"

"I notice you didn't mention the fact that she wore attractive clothes or that her dress was so pretty that you enjoyed walking home with her."

"Why Mother, you know that I enjoy being with her because I love her and she is so nice to be with! It doesn't matter to me whether her dress is attractive or not!"

"That is exactly right," said Mother. "Pleasing characteristics are what we enjoy most about our friends. That is the reason that your father and I want you to grow up having a true Christian character which is so precious in God's sight."

"Plain and modest dressing is one of these priceless virtues. You know our church teaches plain and simple dressing. This is a

Bible principle and teaching of the New Testament. The Apostle Paul wrote to his beloved spiritual son, Timothy, years ago and told him how women who desire to please the Lord should dress modestly. In other words their dress will cover their body in a way not to draw attention to it. A Christian woman doesn't want to draw attention to herself in any way. She will not wear bright, gaudy colors, fancy hairdos or gold and silver ornaments, such as rings, bracelets, necklaces and ear rings."

"Satan puts the desire in a woman to expose as much of her body as is possible. He wants her to wear stylish garments and bedeck herself with jewelry so she will draw the attention of others. This causes her to be proud and sinful. Her immodest dressing can cause others to entertain sinful thoughts that will lead to sinful acts."

"But a Christian woman will possess a meek and quiet spirit within and desire to spend her time in doing good works. She knows that her earthly body will some day perish, but the true ornaments of the spirit will live on throughout eternity."

"People who are not Christians spend much time and expense on dress. They are constantly concerned for fear that their wardrobe is out-dated and no longer in style, so they must discard the old and buy new. But a Christian who dresses modestly and keeps the standards and guidelines of the Church, does not have this worry. A Christian dresses to please the Lord and does not care what worldly people say. No person whose heart is filled with the spirit of Christ, will complain about the Church's standard of plain dress. Loyalty to Bible principles is a gem of great beauty, whose value is without price!"

"I wish Helen could have heard this talk, Mother!"

"Keep on being friendly to her and invite her to come to Church some Sunday. Her values of life are mixed up because she has not had the right training at home."

"I'm so glad that I have a Christian mother to teach me these Bible principles!" said Rosemary as she threw her arms around her Mother's neck.

Sister Maxine Surbey



## **"HOW CAN I BE SAVED?"**

Christ died for our sins, according to the scriptures; I Cor. 15:3. How can that be? The soul that sinneth must die. Eze. 18:20. I am the soul that sinneth I must die.! "For the wages of sin is death;..." Rom. 6:23.

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. I Tim. 1:15. How can anyone save me? The law could not save me because I was too weak to keep the law. Rom. 8:3. For the law is Spiritual but I am carnal, sold under sin. Rom. 7:14.

Jesus had the power to forgive sins. That was like taking an aspirin for a terminal disease, it makes me feel good for a while but it does not last, because I am a sinful man of the Adam's family. Luke 5:8. I Cor. 15:2. I must die and be born again into the family of God to be saved. John 3:3.

God wants me to have complete victory over sin, therefore He sent His only Son to fulfill the Law and die on the cross; He was able to arise again because He had no sin. How could that help me?

Only our God could come up with so great salvation. He wants sinners like me to repent and join His body to become partakers of His death for the remission of our sins, Romans 6:3, and His resurrection to be alive unto God. Romans 6:11.

Praise God! This is the new birth into the family of God! Only one more problem. How can I join His body? What a wonderful Saviour is Jesus my Lord.! He promised to make that atonement for me if I believe and am baptized, calling on the name of the Lord. Acts 22:16. Mark 16:16.

By one Spirit are we all baptized into one body. I Cor. 12:13. "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive." I Cor. 15:22.

The Church of Christ is the kingdom of God, the body of Christ, the family of God on earth. It is God's final plan to save His people. Jesus said, "...upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys to the kingdom of heaven:..." Matt. 16:18-19.

This is the "...mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to His saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus;" Col. 1:26-28.

"For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." Gal. 3:27

"But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory." I Cor. 2:7-8.

"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." Romans 8:1.

"For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory." Col. 3:3-4.

Jesus said, " I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die..." John 11:25-26.

"What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Romans 6:1-2.

"Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?" Romans 6:3. "For he that is dead is freed from sin." Romans 6:7.

We are not only dead to the law of sin and death, we are born again into the kingdom of God. Crucified, sanctified, Holy, complete, and acceptable to God.

We are in Christ who is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth. Romans 10:4. Therefore a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law. Romans 3:28.

"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made

us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage." Gal. 5:1. "Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace." Gal. 5:4.

"For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another." Gal. 5:13.

"Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances, (Touch not; taste not; handle not; Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men?" Col. 2:20-22.

"But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." Matt 15:9.

We are not to give heed to commandments of men, that turn from the truth. Titus 1:14.

"Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." Matt. 16:24. Self denial means, let go and let God. Taking up the cross means, being baptized into Christ, into His death for the remission of our sins. Romans 6:3.

Let us put our trust in Him who is able to keep us from falling, and to present us faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy. Jude 1:24. Let us not forget, if the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed. John 8:36.

"...Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered." Romans 4:7. We may have faults, our works that will be burned. We may suffer loss, but, Praise God, we will be saved, so as by fire. I Cor. 3:15.

I have a choice, try to make it on my own, under the old law which condemns me or deny myself and be baptized into Christ who came to fulfill the law for me.

Someone has said, baptism alone will not save you. If putting on Christ alone cannot save me, Gal. 3:27, whom can I get to help?

"...I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is



able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day." II Tim. 1:12.

A brother in Christ,  
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## **LET A MAN EXAMINE HIMSELF**

I Corinthians 11:28, "But let a man examine himself..."

One of the most exacting occupations in the world is that of the medical examiner. His job is to find the cause of death of the body lying before him. Often he has to dissect entire organs, painstakingly studying every square millimeter. Sometimes, if foul play is suspected, he has to check out all the skin area, looking for injuries or needle sites. Sometimes it takes weeks to find what he is looking for and sometimes he never finds what he is looking for.

We could take a lesson from the medical examiner. We are told in God's Word to examine ourselves. II Timothy 2:15 says, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." We must be thorough. We must be exacting. We must study carefully our own lives and our own actions.

The occasion of the Lovefeast is used so that we can gather around the Lord's Table with a clear conscience, or as the scripture says in Acts 24:16, "...a conscience void of offense toward God, and toward men." If we have sinned against someone we can, as in James 5:16, "Confess your faults one to another,...that ye may be healed..."

It is important that we examine ourselves. I Corinthians 11:29 says, "For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body." Verse 31 says, "For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged." Examine yourself under the light of God's Word.

Years ago we would go to the Baltimore Jail for a worship service. Before we went in, the attendant would stamp our hand with

a special stamp. We could not see the imprint until it was passed under an ultraviolet lamp. Often we cannot see our own imperfections until we pass under the light of God's Word. Examine yourself now or fall under the judgment of God later.

God wants you to sit around the communion tables. "But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup." I Corinthians tells us to eat and drink after we have made the examination. We are not to abstain from the table, but make our paths straight and then go to the table. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, "Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift." Matthew 5:23-24.

Brother Lynn H. Miller  
70 Round Barn Road  
Newmanstown, PA 17073

### **"25 SPIRITUAL CHECK POINTS"**

1. When prayer ceases to be a vital part of a professing Christian's life.
2. When the quest for biblical truth ceases and one grows content with the knowledge of eternal things already acquired.
3. When biblical knowledge possessed or acquired is treated as external fact and not applied inwardly.
4. When earnest thoughts about eternal things ceases to be regular and gripping.
5. When services of the church lose their delights.
6. When pointed spiritual discussions are an embarrassment.
7. When sports, recreation and entertainment are a large and necessary part of your lifestyle.
8. When sins of the body and of the mind can be indulged without an uproar in your conscience.
9. When aspirations for Christ-like holiness cease to be dominant

in your life and thinking

10. When the acquisition of money and goods becomes a dominant part of your thinking.
11. When you can mouth religious songs and words without heart.
12. When you can hear the Lord's name used in vain, spiritual concerns mocked, and eternal issues flippantly treated and not be moved to indignation and action.
13. When you can watch degrading movies and television and read morally debilitating literature.
14. When breaches of peace in the brotherhood are of no concern to you.
15. When the slightest excuse seems sufficient to keep you from spiritual duty and opportunity.
16. When you become content with your lack of spiritual power and no longer seek repeated endowments of power from on high.
17. When you pardon your own sin and sloth by saying the Lord understands and remembers that we are dust.
18. When there is no music in your soul and no song in your heart.
19. When you adjust happily to the world's lifestyle.
20. When injustice and human misery exist around you, and you do little or nothing to relieve the suffering.
21. When your church has fallen into spiritual declension and the Word of God is no longer preached there with power, and you are still content.
22. When the spiritual condition of the world declines around you and you cannot perceive it.
23. When you are willing to cheat your employer.
24. When you find yourself rich in grace and mercy and marvel at your own godlikeness.
25. When your tears are dried up and the hard, cold spiritual facts of your existence cannot unleash them.

Selected by Lee Roy Uplinger



## OBITUARIES

### NEWTON JAMISON

Bro. Newton Thomas Jamison, son of Owen Thomas and Malissa (Flory) Jamison was born August 8, 1910, and grew up on the family farm southeast of Quinter, Kansas. He attended the Quinter schools, graduating in 1929. He was baptized into the Church of the Brethren as a young man and later transferred his membership to the Quinter Dunkard Brethren Church.

He was married to Elma Beck at Wauseon, Ohio, on June 18, 1930. They started farming north of Quinter during the depression and dirt storm years. Tom and Marlan were born during this time.

The family moved to Dallas Center, Iowa for several years, then to Denver, Colorado, in 1937. Newton found employment with the Groswald Ski Company, where he worked until 1943. Two more sons, Richard and Ronald, were born during this period of time.

The family moved back to Quinter where Newton was employed as manager of the Co-op Elevator and Hardware. In 1944 he purchased the Quinter Appliance Store from Ed Behrens, where he remained until his retirement. A daughter, Dyann, was born in 1951.

Newton was instrumental in the founding of Torreon Navajo Mission near Cuba, New Mexico, and enjoyed going there to help with the many building projects. In 1969 he built a mountain cabin at White Pine, Colorado, where he and Elma spent many enjoyable hours with family and friends.

His wife was called Home July 22, 1993. Newton entered the Gove County Medical Center Long Term Care Facility at Quinter in 1998, and resided there until his death on December 16, 2001.

His family that remains are sons, Tom and wife, Dorothy, of Hoxie, Kansas, Marlan and wife, Shirley, of Quinter, Kansas, Richard of Regina, New Mexico, Ronald of Abiquiu, New Mexico, and daughter Dyann and husband, Clair Armstrong, of Wauseon, Ohio; brothers Herman and wife, Reva, of Quinter, Kansas, Dale and wife Doris, of Quinter, Kansas, sister Dola Attebery of Camarillo, California, sister-in-law Moyne Jamison of Phoenix, Arizona; eleven grandchildren and sixteen great-grandchildren.

His family and friends will remember and miss him.

Memorial services were held on Wednesday, December 19, 2001, at the Dunkard Brethren Church, Quinter, Kansas. Services were conducted by Brethren Dale Jamison, Herman Jamison, Len Wertz and Gordon Jamison.

Interment in the Quinter Cemetery.

God saw you getting tired

and a cure was not to be,

so He put His arms around you,

and whispered, "Come to Me."

With tearful eyes we

watched you,

and saw you pass away,

and though we loved you dearly,

we could not make you stay.

A golden heart stopped beating,

hard working hands at rest.

God broke our hearts to prove

He only takes the best.

The prayers, cards and memorials were appreciated by the family during this time.

The Family

CLAUDE L. FLORY

Bro. Claude L. Flory, 83, of Pioneer died Saturday, February 2, 2002, at home after an extended illness.

He was born July 19, 1918, at home near Jewell, Ohio to Agnes (Schock) and Henry Flory. He married Melba Tate, July 19, 1942; and in July of this year they would have been married 60 years.

As a teenager he accepted Christ as his personal Savior and was a member of the Pleasant Ridge Dunkard Brethren Church where he served as deacon since 1951.

He worked for Yoder and Frey, Inc. for several years. In 1954 he started Flory's Trenching and Excavating, which he operated for

forty-one years.

To the union of Claude and Melba was born one son and two daughters; Marvin and wife Urania from Dallas Center, Iowa; Claudia Meyers and husband John from Moselle, Mississippi; and Delores Shoup of Pioneer, Ohio.

A bright spot in his life were his beloved grandchildren; Donna Wagner and husband Dan of Dallas Center, Iowa; Susan Flory of Ft. Valley, Georgia; Ruth Flory of Dallas Center, Iowa; John Flory of Dallas Center, Iowa; Jared Meyers and wife Jedda of Laurel, Mississippi; Rachel Meyers of Moselle, Mississippi, and Adam Meyers of Moselle, Mississippi; and three great grandchildren, Amanda, Danny and Elizabeth Wagner who knew their great grandpa as Popsiedoodle.

He was also survived by his beloved brother Harley Flory and wife Marjorie of Defiance and also many nieces and nephews.

Preceding him in death were his parents, his loving step-mother, Abbie (Rupp) Flory, and granddaughter, Roxanne Flory.

His Journey

The road that leads up upward

He traveled many years.

The path was filled with sunshine,

Some laughter and some tears.

A faithful, loving servant

He was steadfast, strong, and true,

And always wore a happy smile

To share with all he knew.

His life was filled with love

For the family that he had

They called him sweetheart, daddy,

Grandpa, and even great-granddad.

He reached his destination



Heaven's gates have opened wide.  
The Savior that he loved so dear  
Has beckoned him inside.

Now singing with the saints up there  
And walking streets of gold  
The pain is gone, his heart is free,  
And his body's been made whole.

-Sister Martha Heer

Services were held February 5, 2002, at 10:00 A.M. in the Pleasant Ridge Dunkard Brethren Church with Elders Dennis St. John and Tom St. John officiating. Burial was in the Poplar Ridge Cemetery near Jewell, Ohio.

It is easy to say "thank you" but difficult to express the many special thoughts behind our thanks to each of you who remembered us with your caring deeds and expressions of love and prayers during Claude's illnesses and at this time of sorrow. He was so patient it was a blessing to care for him.

The Family of Claude Flory

Melba Flory

Marvin and Urania Flory and family

John and Claudia Meyers and family

Delores Shoup

MILDRED COOK

Mildred Donna Cook was born August 29, 1919, in Northwest Township, Williams County, Ohio. She was the only child of Fred and Grace (Ferguson) Ansley. She attended the local schools and graduated from Edon High School in 1940.

She died in Tucson, Arizona on February 15, 2002.

She married Arlo Ernest Cook on November 16, 1940, and he survives. They were married by Elder D. P. Koch at his home in Jefferson Township, Williams County, Ohio. They farmed in Northwest Township, Williams County, Ohio until 1959, when they moved

to Tucson, Arizona for a more healthful climate. In Tucson, she worked as a clerk at the downtown McLellan's variety store for twenty-five years.

She is survived also by two sons, Bro. Milton (Marilyn) Cook of Beaumont, California and Richard of Tucson, Arizona. Also surviving are five grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her father in 1937 and her mother in 1993, also by an infant son, Billy, in 1941 and two infant granddaughters.

While her life was not spectacular, it was a lifetime of steady help to her husband, children and grandchildren.

Graveside services were conducted by Elder Milton Cook, February 19, 2002, in the Evergreen cemetery, Tucson under the direction of the Arizona Mortuary - University Chapel.

The family of Mildred Cook wishes to thank all who have held her up in prayer and friendship during her declining years. Her family thanks all for your prayers, notes of sympathy and other tokens of your care since her passing.

## NEWS ITEMS

### MINISTERIAL LIST CHANGES

Please add to the Ministerial List:

Dale Aungst (M), 566 Beegle Road, Clearville, PA 15535.  
Telephone # 814-784-3600

Please change the addresses of the following Brethren in the Ministerial List:

David Aungst (M) 334 Birds Hill Road, Pine Grove, PA 17963

Jeff Aungst (M) 3425 Sweet Arrow Lake Road, Pine Grove, PA 17963

### PLEASANT HOME, CALIFORNIA

The Lord willing, the Pleasant Home Congregation plans to hold the Fourth District Meeting and Spring Lovefeast, March 29 through 31. Communion starts at 6:00 P.M. Saturday evening. We wel-

come your presence and prayers.

Sister Carol Walker, Cor.

#### LITITZ, PENNSYLVANIA

The Lititz, Pennsylvania Congregation plans a revival meeting March 31 through April 7, 2002, with Bro. Wayne Burgess as the evangelist. We invite your presence and prayers.

Sister Arlene Birt, Cor.

#### QUINTER, KANSAS

The Lord willing the Quinter Congregation plans to host the annual District Meeting for the Third District. A service is being planned for Friday, April 12 commencing at 7:30 P.M. District Meeting proper will begin at 9:00 A.M. Saturday April 13. We plan to close the day with communion services. Sunday morning April 14 will be our regular Sunday School and Church service beginning at 10:00 A.M. with dinner to follow. We invite all who can to join us for worship and fellowship.

Sister Ruth Clark, Cor.

#### BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA

Bethel is planning their spring revival April 14 through 21, Lord willing. Bro. Jeremiah Johnson from Hart, Michigan plans to be the evangelist. Pray and come worship with us.

Sister Fern Wolfe, Cor.

#### WEST FULTON, OHIO

The Lord willing the West Fulton Congregation is looking forward to their Lovefeast weekend, April 19, 20, and 21. Bro. David Rice is to be the speaker. Services Friday evening at 7:30 and on Saturday starting at 2:00. All are cordially invited to come to any or all of these services. Please remember them in your prayers.

Sister Dianne Heisey

#### CLEARVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

We, the Clearville Congregation, on February 3, 2002, installed a Brother into the ministry, Bro. Dale S. Aungst. We also added four new members to our congregation on December 9, 2001. They



are David, Leah, Daryl, and Dana Mallow

Please pray for our new minister as he works in the service of the Lord, and for our church as we grow.

In Christian love,

Sister Benita Bollman, Cor.

### THANK YOU

I want to send my heartfelt thanks to each one that sent me cards and gifts for my 95th birthday and the pages for my calendar. I really appreciated and enjoyed each one and I will enjoy each page of the calendar day by day.

May the Lord bless each one and keep us all faithful to the end.

Sister Della Ebling

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR APRIL 2002

April 7 - A Servant to All - I Cor. 9:15-27

1. What does a minister have to glory in if he is a willing participant?
2. How do we bring our body under subjection?

April 14 - Spiritual Experiences No Guarantee Against Temptation - I Cor. 10:1-13

1. Explain how they were baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea.
2. In what ways has God made a way of escape for you in the face of temptation.

April 21 - Flee from Idolatry but Partake with Thanks - I Cor. 10:14-33

1. What kind of things would represent modern day idolatry?
2. Why should I concern myself with the conscience of another?

April 28 - Headship and the Headship Covering - I Cor. 11:1-16

1. In what way does the order of headship affect the relationship of a man and a woman?
2. Is the covering primarily a prayer veil, or a headship covering?

## **YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR APRIL 2002**

April 7 - The Wise Steward - Matt. 24:42-51, Luke 12:35-48, Matt. 25:21, I Cor. 4:2-5

1. Explain the paradox of salvation by faith vs. salvation by doing the Lord's will.
2. Who is going to judge our stewardship?

April 14 - Offenses - Matt 18:1-17, Luke 17:1-5, Rom. 16:17-19

1. What is it in the nature of a child that we all must learn?
2. Have you ever noticed how easily we can be deceived by one who causes divisions and is seeking a following?

April 21 - Sin - Gen. 4:6-17, Isa. 53:5-6, Matt. 12:31-33, Luke 11:39-42 12:45-47, Rom. 6:1-23

1. Do you know how far sin will take you, or how entangled you can get?
2. Is it possible to clean up the inside and still continue in sin on the outside?

April 28 - The Wicked Husbandman - Matt. 21:33-41, Mark 12:1-9, Luke 20:9-16

1. How is husbandry distinctly different from just farming?
2. Who is the husbandman and who is the son?

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# BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXX

APRIL 2002

NO. 4

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

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OUR MOTTO: Scriptural in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,  
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

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## JESUS! THE VERY THOUGHT IS SWEET

Jesus! the very tho't is sweet  
In that dear name all heart-joys meet;  
But sweeter than the honey far  
The glimpses of his presence are.

No word is sung more sweet than this,  
No name is heard more full of bliss;  
No tho't brings sweeter comfort nigh,  
Than Jesus, Son of God, most high.

Jesus, the hope of souls forlorn!  
How good to them for sin that mourn;  
To them that seek thee, O how kind!  
But what art thou to them that find?

No tongue of mortal can express,  
No letters write its blessedness;  
Alone, who hath thee in his heart  
Knows, love of Jesus, what thou art.

-B. Barton

## THE BRIDE

It is said that in the spring a young man's fancy turns to love. It seems that young women, as well, have a soft spot for love. These springtime flurries often lead to a more serious relationship later. As the two become better acquainted and feel the direction of the Holy Spirit towards a lifetime union, a wedding date is set. Their special day comes when their lifelong commitments are made.

These two become one following the pattern provided in the Garden of Eden, where marriage was instituted. Physically, emotionally and Spiritually two become one body. Each retains his or her own physical characteristics and talents, yet each submerges his or her will and wants for the good of both. What affects each one affects both. If either is suffering a hurt, it affects the other partner.

While the two people making up the marriage continue to be the people they were before, their new relationship creates a new body. That body not only can now engage in intimate physical activities that would have been immoral before the beginning of this relationship, but there is also an intimate emotional relationship. The emotional aches and pains of life can be shared. In Ecclesiastes, Solomon comments on the extra strength that each gains from the presence of the other.

This relationship has been established by God. It was the first institution established in the Garden of Eden. Adam understood

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that God had brought forth the woman from his body that she might be a part of him, but not his servant nor his superior. She was formed from the rib near to Adam's heart. God realized that no other animal could be the partner of Adam. So He made the one, who was Adam's special partner. They were commissioned to multiply and populate the new earth.

God used this relationship not only to provide companionship for Adam and to populate the world, but He uses that relationship to mirror the relationship between Christ and the Church. The Church is constantly referred to in the Bible as the Bride of Christ and also as the Body of Christ.

A man's wife is always his bride, as the Church is Christ's Bride. She has been espoused to Him. There is a promise of a future relationship. If she is prepared for His coming, she will be with Him for eternity. The time between His ascension and His return are the time of preparation for the bride. Will she be ready when He returns?

He is expecting a Bride without spot or blemish. The spots and blemishes of this life are the sins that so easily besmudge the one who lives in an evil and tempting world. The enemy of the Bride is ever working openly, as well as subtlety, to entice the Bride to be unfaithful. There are many programs and activities that appeal to the natural man that may enter the Church and become a spot or blemish upon her character. These activities may be popular and even seem to be harmless but they often can have an unexpected effect. They can break down bars for other activities that are not good for those participating. As the bride must be careful in her activities, so she will be the chaste bride that her husband expects, so the Church must be careful in her choices so she will be prepared when the Groom returns for her. It would be a tragedy to expect an eternal relationship, but find it had been squandered by a few unguarded activities.

The five foolish virgins were expecting a great occasion when the Groom returned, but they were disappointed because they had not been vigilant in their preparation. He came but they were not ready. Their oil had run out. The wise virgins, also, were asleep but

they had prepared earlier. They could sleep the peaceful sleep of those who were prepared. Their sleep was not that of the foolish virgins, who slept the sleep of indolence. This serves as a warning to the Church today as she awaits the Second Coming of her Lord. She must be prepared. Her sleep should be peaceful, knowing that all is ready.

The Church is the body of Christ, as the wife is the body of her husband. This is an intimate relationship. The bodies of the husband and the wife have been created to supply the need of the other. So the Church supplies the Lord's need of a physical body in this present world, while the Lord supplies the need of leadership and protection for the earthly body. The Lord has sacrificed for the well-being of the Church. The Church, in her imperfect way, maintains the Word and direction of the Lord in today's world.

It is important that the Church maintain her position as the Bride and Body of the Lord. May she ever be preparing herself for the time of His return.

M.C.Cook

## PEACE

"And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance for ever." Isaiah 32:17.

Only through Jesus Christ are we made righteous, and a by-product of this righteousness is peace in our hearts. Paul said in II Corinthians 5:21, "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." (John 14:27) We have been labeled a "peace church" due to our relationship with our earthly government. We trust that people see us this way.

One of the greatest blessings of the Bible is found in Numbers, chapter 6, verses 24 to 26, where God blesses the dedication of the altar. "The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: The Lord make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The Lord lift up



his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace." Peace is an important aspect of our relationship with God. In Matthew 12:43 there is a good description of the soul apart from God: "When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none." When we come to God earnestly, we find peace. We find rest. Likewise, if He is "gracious unto" us, we must be gracious one to another. I Peter 3:8 says, "...be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous." David said in Psalm 86 that the Lord was "a God full of compassion." Jesus had compassion for the multitudes. We need to have compassion for each other and for lost humanity. Do we display to the world our love one to another, or do we give them a different picture? Paul wrote to the Ephesians (chapter 4:31-32) about this. "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

The basis for our loving, forgiving spirit is Christ's forgiveness of us. God gives us peace. The things Paul spoke of in Ephesians are serious charges. This was the church, yet these things were going on. "Evil speaking" is self-explanatory. Bitterness is a terrible charge, yet very common. But Paul says it should be put away. Clamour speaks of gossip or people never satisfied and always making trouble. Have we forgiven everyone? Are we holding anything back? If we allow bad feelings to stay inside us and fester, we become bitter. We should be "kindly affectioned" toward each other. We should endeavor to be peaceful to our brethren and to our unsaved neighbors round-about us. Jesus said in the sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:9) "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God." We must be careful that peace is not achieved at the expense of truth. That is one of the reasons why the peacemakers are a blessed people. The truth must be honored. II Cor. 13:8 says, "For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth."

Peacemakers must be giving people. Sometimes they must give everything they have. The scripture tells us if we are asked for our coat, to give our cloak also. This is not justice, yet there was



nothing just about how Jesus was arrested and executed. He did it for us. He made peace for us with God. Have we been accused falsely? Have we been reviled? Did we fight back in the name of justice, or did we do as Jesus did, and answer not again in the name of peace?

Brother Lynn H. Miller  
70 Round Barn Road  
Newmanstown, PA 17073

## THE PRINCIPLE OF NONRESISTANCE

"Recompense to no man evil for evil." Rom. 12:17

We get the word "nonresistance" from the instruction of Christ to His disciples that they "resist not evil." So often we think of nonresistance as merely refusing to go to war, yet when studying the life of Christ, and what He taught His disciples, we must acknowledge it requires much more.

In the Sermon on the Mount He discusses a number of subjects pertaining to the practical side of life, and how we as Christians should relate to others.

"Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloke also." Matt. 5:38-40.

Mark Twain, after hearing others complaining that the Bible was hard to understand, stated that he was bothered more by the parts of the Bible that he could understand than by the parts he could not understand. Admittedly the thought of not resisting evil is much easier to understand than most care to admit. We prefer rather to differentiate between what Jesus commands and our own particular situation, yet the undeniable truth is there are no exceptions.

"...but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also." Does God really expect us to allow others to inflict bodily harm and not retaliate? "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" I Cor.

3:16.

We would do well in remembering our Lord and Savior's words from the cross. "...Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do..." Luke 23:34. Jesus says not a word in His own defense. When He prayed to the Father He might have said, judge them for the wrong they do to thy beloved Son. But there is no prayer against them in the words that Jesus utters. It was written of old, by the prophet Isaiah "He made intercession for the transgressors; and here it is literally fulfilled. He pleads for His murders, "Father, forgive them."

If the Spirit of God dwells in you, then truly the Spirit would prompt us to turn the other cheek.

"And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloke also." Over the course of life many situations arise that may leave us feeling as we have just been trampled on and treated unfairly. But the word of God and the Holy Spirit command no retaliation. We as Christians can never bring willful harm to anyone.

"...Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you:" Matt. 5:44.

The following is selected and better describes nonresistance better than I ever can.

Jesus emerges from the garden of Gethsemane after His agonizing ordeal in prayer, sweaty from the struggle. But the heart that was poured out so emotionally is now filled with resolve to drink the cup set before Him. No matter how bitter. No matter how difficult to swallow. Jesus and his sleepy disciples descend into the Kidron valley. Awaiting the Savior on the other side is a towering fate that cast a long, dark shadow over the valley. Coming up from the valley, Jesus enters an olive grove. He has come there often with His disciples.

This time would be His last.

In the grove the rheumatoid forms of the trees look as if they have grown out of some silent pain deep within the earth. They are

old and have seen many injustices. Tonight they would witness the worst.

As He pauses in that shadowy respite, Jesus knows everything that is about to happen. He knows where He will be taken prisoner, when, and by whom. Yet He does nothing to postpone His appointment with destiny.

His hour has come.

Through the grove comes the muted clatter of what sounds like a mob. Torches bob above the crowd, curling plumes of black smoke into the night. As the disciples squint through the gnarled silhouettes of the trees, they discover that the mob is comprised of military men.

How ironic. A detachment of soldiers coming for one who could, with a whispered prayer, deploy legions of angels for His defense. How very ironic, coming for the light of the world with torches and lanterns. Coming with hand crafted swords for the one who forged the stars.

They come at night, strategically, to minimize the resistance. Since Jerusalem is brimming with pilgrims to celebrate the Pass-over, there is no way of knowing how many of them are loyal to Jesus. If the arrest were to take place during the day, it could trigger a revolt.

The disciples dart their eyes over the grove to look for other soldiers, as well as an avenue of escape. Before they realize it, the soldiers are upon them.

Peter's hand clutches the hilt of his recently purchased sword, but he makes no move to draw it. Wait, a sword? In the hands of a fisherman? What's gotten into Peter? Doesn't he realize Jesus' kingdom is not of this world? Doesn't he know his hands should be clasped in prayer? Not around the hilt of a sword?

Jesus steps forward. Courageously. Resolutely. An unarmed man squared off against a small army. He is the first to speak.

"Who is it you want?"

The reply is crisp as the night air. "Jesus the Nazarene."



Without hesitation or a ploy to cloak His identity, Jesus answers, "I am He."

His confession is literally, "I am" - the same words God used to identify Himself when speaking to Moses from the burning bush.

At the words "I am" the soldiers collapse. In one brief but incredible display of deity, Jesus overpowers His opposition. They are thrust to the ground as a wrestler would pin down his opponent. But the force is exerted only momentarily. The display is not to defeat His enemy but merely to validate His claim.

Again Jesus asks who are you looking for. Again they reply. Again He identifies himself. But this time He includes a plea for His disciples: "If you are looking for me then let these men go."

Judas then steps from the shadows to point out Jesus to his captors. And he does so deceitfully, with a kiss. "Friend," Jesus says to him, "Wherefore art thou come?"

The servant of the high priest advances to take Jesus into custody. As he does, Peter whips out his sword and takes a swing at the man. The servant jerks his head out of the way, but the sword severs part of his ear. Then Jesus said to him. "Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take up the sword shall perish with the sword."

Jesus turns His attention to the servant cupping his ear. He touches the wound. Immediately it is healed.

Jesus will not tolerate so much as the loss of an ear in His defense. He is insistent - the only blood shed would be His own.

Luke is the only gospel writer to document the healing. Maybe to the others the miracle seemed minuscule in light of the tragedy being enacted before them. After all, of what consequence is the earlobe of a servant when the Savior of the world's life is at stake?

It was the last miracle Jesus performed before He died.

And the smallest.

Certainly the servant could have lived a full life without part of one of his ears. It wouldn't have impaired his hearing. At worst, the damage would have been cosmetic.

But He who preached "love your enemies" practiced what He preached - and practiced it to the end. For the Savior's last miracle was an unrequested act of kindness to an enemy.

Maybe it wasn't such a small miracle after all.

In light of the legions of angels at His disposal and in light of how the Savior could have used His power, maybe, just maybe, it was His greatest.

In His service,  
Brother Stephen G. Aldinger, Sr.

## DRAFT BILL INTRODUCED IN CONGRESS

### A Prayer Request from the Civilian Service Board

Recently, a bill has been introduced into the United States Congress regarding the issue of reinstating the draft.

Representative Nick Smith from Michigan and Representative Curt Weldon from Pennsylvania introduced a bill in the United States House of Representatives on December 20, 2001, that would require all young men (male citizens and residents) to be inducted into the Armed Forces for a period of up to one year. This bill would require that every male citizen and resident of the United States between the ages of 18 and 22 receive basic military training and education as a member of the armed forces unless the citizen or person is exempted under the provisions of this Act. Additionally, young women may volunteer for enlistment in the armed forces to receive basic military training and education.

The name of this bill is the "**Universal Military Training and Service Act of 2001**", and the number is "**H.R.3598**." This bill has been assigned to the "House Armed Services Committee."

It should be noted that this bill is not law, nor anywhere close to becoming law. Many bills are introduced during each session of The House which never see the light of day. There are several aspects of this bill that I feel give us cause for prayer and consideration.

Unfortunately, there are very few exemptions from the provi-

sions of this bill. Basically, there is no provision to exempt Conscientious Objectors from basic military training and education in this bill. The only provision would be that Conscientious Objectors would not have to participate in the combatant training component of the basic training. This violates our religious convictions about the wearing of the uniform and being a part of a system that is fundamentally organized to kill, maim, and otherwise harm the enemies of our nation.

In my opinion, this bill throws us back to the World War I days before the provisions for Conscientious Objectors were hammered out by the time World War II came along—insofar as basic training is concerned.

One provision of the bill states that upon completion of the initial component of the basic military training and education, the remainder of a person's obligation could be transferred to "national service programs" rather than serving in a branch of the military. These service programs would be administered by Federal agencies, State or political subdivisions of the state, and other entities carrying out national service programs. I have some concern as to exactly what these provisions would entail. Would our church (or other churches and Christian organizations) be able to oversee programs for Alternative Service as in the past?

Frankly speaking, this bill is rather extreme, and for this reason it may not go very far (hopefully)!. In my opinion, the military branches would have a great deal of difficulty in handling the great influx of trainees after years of downsizing and cutting military bases. On the other hand, only one Member of Congress voted against military action last fall in the wake of the September 11, 2001, tragedy. So the mood of our country is very much in support of whatever it takes to conquer the threat of global terrorism. Under this kind of pressure, unusual things can occur. This bill opens the discussion about the possible return of the draft, and demonstrates that Members of Congress are thinking about it. It greatly increases the possibility of a "more reasonable" proposal getting through Congress.

What I find alarming is the fact that instead of reinstating the previous "Draft Bill" with the existing provisions for Conscientious



Objectors, Representatives Smith and Weldon wrote new legislation which has excluded the provisions for the exemption of Conscientious Objectors from basic training which we have enjoyed during the past sixty some years.

The feeling I get when reading this bill that was introduced into Congress is that we are now citizens in a country where the "pharaoh knew not Joseph" (Exodus 1:8). There is a new generation of leaders now serving in Congress, many of whom never served in the military and who are completely unaware of the provisions for Conscientious Objectors and Alternative Service.

What should our response to this be? We need to pray! The purpose for this article is to inform you, that you may be better equipped to know how to pray for our nation's leaders. Paul instructs us to make supplications, prayers, and intercessions "for the kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour" (I Timothy 2:2-3). Also pray for the members of the Civilian Service Board, that they may stay alert to any possible action, as well as respond with a proper and Christ-honoring response.

Young men should register with the Selective Service upon reaching the age of 18 years old. Forms are available at your local Post Office. We suggest that the young men write these words somewhere on the form: "I am a Conscientious Objector." Before mailing the form to the Selective Service, be sure to make copies of the completed form, and keep these copies in a safe place. It is imperative that young men, as well as all members, live lives consistent with the teachings of the Prince of Peace. People in our local communities are observing our lives. We claim that the New Testament is our rule of faith and practice, and it is essential that we live accordingly.

The Civilian Service Board will continue to monitor the situation and keep the membership informed as necessary. May God bless you, and may He guide us in these challenging times.

With Loving Concern,  
Brother Robert S. Lehigh  
Executive Secretary of the Civilian Service Board

## KENYA KNOTES

FRIDAY (March 15)

Today I worked with the men again at back filling the house. We only have about one forth of the house left to finish. Merlin and Justin dug the ditch or the sewer line and Ray and the boys finished up after the men went home.

Ray and Cheryl went to Kitali for supplies for the weddings and the house as well as for the Chepcornishwa Church. Alfred Amali was here to see me so I visited with him for quite some time. He had a number of questions and wanted some counsel on some issues within his personal life. I hope that he will accept the challenges.

Nancy and Marie were kept busy baking and decorating cake for the three weddings this week-end. About 5:20 Nancy came up to the house and told us that the mixer quit with one cake left to decorate. Now we have to go mixer shopping.

SUNDAY

Sorry for missing yesterday. With the weddings we had to haul people and help get things ready, the program printed and my notes copied over. In the afternoon and evening Ray was doing his ledger on the computer so it was late till he finished. So I am here tonight.

Saturday went fairly well. There were a few mix-ups but that was to be expected. It was Henry's and Paul's day. Ray was to take Milika and some of her ladies to Kessigon so he left around 7:30 and ended up chasing half of them down. They forgot to pick up the dress, so Florence and he had to make another trip. I went to get Henry. He wasn't quite ready but didn't take too long. Brought some of his people to Caltex and had them walk to the church. Had to go to Makutano and escort Rose to the church. I got back just after Ray got back with his load. I checked with Hosea if I had all the program right. Printed it out and then went over the program with the MC and Matrons. It took a little convincing but it didn't go too badly. Henry's and Rose's family were to sit on one side and Paul's and Milika's on the other side. Also Henry was to go



first but they changed that also, so things got mixed up. I forgot to ask who was giving the bride. All in all things went smoothly and most of the people were happy the way things turned out.

After the wedding Paul and Milika had their meal at Hosea's place. Hosea and Florence were their best couple. Henry had a close friend as their best couple. Merlin and I each took a load of people to Henry's place for their meal. I stayed as Henry invited me and wanted me to stay. Had chapati, rice, chicken, goat, beef and potatoes. Was delicious. Those who were in the house were about done eating when it started to rain, so all the little children came inside to the bedroom. I stood up as my back was hurting. They didn't have the tea finished yet and someone ask me to take them to the stage so they could get a ride home. I ended up with a whole load that I dropped off at the post office as it was really raining. Got home and Cheryl had supper soon so ate a little. Later I took the letter and magazines over to Florence. Visited with her for a while. Paul was there as some of his guests were there as he didn't have enough room for them. He roasted some lamb on the charcoal burner and I had to eat some. Was really good. Hosea was down at the shop. He had to finish Karioki's suit for Moses' wedding the next day. He still hasn't learned.

Sunday Merlin woke me to let them into the house to take a shower. He was to take Hosea to Kaptalamwa and Justin went along. It was the first time that he got to drive the cruiser. When they got back he said that thing really handles nice. Rolls over the rough stuff nice and easy. Some were here early to start decorating for Moses's wedding after church. I had to rearrange some of the chairs for church though. Church got started about ten minutes late and before Sunday School it started to rain lightly. During Sunday School it really rained so we had a smaller crowd than normal. Peter taught Sunday School. Got into the discussion about which was the right day to worship, Saturday or Sunday. Was interesting and he went till about 11:20. I had the message and church let out about 12:30. It had stopped raining right before Sunday School was over. During the rain they had to move all the chairs and some of the balloons came lose. Caleb kept pushing the water off the low spots of the tent. After church they went back to deco-



rating. Cheryl had tacos for lunch. She baked the chapati instead of frying it. It was good.

I got the new program printed out and Ray went and picked up a load of people. Agnes was Matron; Amundi was MC. David and Alice were best couple. The march went good, but the parents of both sides didn't show up. Not sure what happened. We skipped those parts. Merlin and Hosea just got back in time for him to take his coat off and get to the church in time to give the church report. We moved on to the rest of the program. Cheryl cut the cake and gave the blessing to the couple. It started raining when they got ready to march to the vehicles. I took a load up and was asked to stay for the meal. Ray took a load up also but it was raining and they had everything set up outside. I went home. Ray took another load up and they moved everything to the municipal room. Moses moved up to right before the Netherlands office. I made popcorn for supper and now here I am.

#### MONDAY

Well another day has come and gone and I am still alive over here. Since we had so much rain since Friday it was too wet to back fill the house, so I didn't work up there this morning. I helped Merlin and Justin to prepare a place for Gilbert to work on the doors and other woodwork for the house. Then Ray and I took two ladies from Kaptalamwa to the hospital and dropped them off. We went down by the Arumaget water project. The pipe is broken and all the taps and the tank lid are gone. The water has been turned off to that tank. The new tank that I had built is still working and looking well except the tap is missing. They use a corn cob to keep the water from running all the time. Came back and dug up the sewer pipe from the commode in the big bathroom as it was not flushing right. Couldn't find any major problems. We left it open to watch it for a few days to make sure that there are no problems. After lunch we went up to the house and it was dry enough to start back filling. I worked with the men and Ray worked on the waste water pipe. He got it all finished. I helped him after the men went home. We worked till around 6:30 or so. After supper I went down to Hosea's shop to talk about plans for the weddings this week end. Cheryl is giving the girls baths now. Will get my shower and get to

bed as I have to get the men working tomorrow. Ray is going to Eldoret and Merlin, Justin and Davidson plan to go up to climb Mount Mortibus, so I will be alone.

### TUESDAY

Today Ray's left around 8:15 for Eldoret. Marie wanted to visit the Hospice office and Ray went looking for ideas and supplies. Merlin and the boys went to Mount Mortibus and then later in the afternoon went to Kitatli. I got the men started on back filling and then had to come down to the house to check on a cement mixer and make another phone call. Went back up and the men asked where they were going to get tea today as the one worker that lives close usually has his wife make it but that didn't work out today. So I made them tea and they said that it was good. We got the house completely leveled inside and hope to start on the concrete tomorrow.

I had to meet with Caleb's and Peter's today to discuss their wedding plans, hoping that they have the meal together but not sure if they will. Need to check in the morning what they decide.

Ray's didn't get home till around 8:00 so I warmed up the leftovers for the boys and I. Had plenty to eat and didn't hear any complaints. They washed the dishes after supper.

Frank is doing well. He walks and runs playing with the girls when he is here. He is really growing. His legs are bowed a lot. Looks like he was riding a horse for a long time. When he runs he still waddles though. He doesn't seem to have complete control of his legs from the knees down, from what I could see watching. Frank was all smiles when he saw me but wouldn't talk to me other than answer how he was.

### WEDNESDAY

I spend around two hours running between people this morning trying to get Caleb and Peter to agree to have the meal after the wedding together here at the compound. We met this afternoon at 5:00 and discussed the pros and cons and they agreed to have it together. PRAISE THE LORD. Now we will meet tomorrow noon to work out the final plans for the meal.



I didn't get up to the house till around 10:00 or so. Ray got the garage formed and I helped level up outside the garage then started mixing the sand and cement together. I and two Kenyans mixed that on the ground. We level the sand out on the ground then dump the cement on the top and then shovel it back and forth four times to get it mixed right. Ray had a pan made to mix concrete and mud in, so we would put three wheel barrows of the sand and cement mix in and one wheel barrow of stone and some of the water; mix that by hand then add another wheel barrow of stone, mix it well and then dump it out and level it. Took about four hours to pour the garage which is 14x24. Not too bad for the first day, getting the men to understand what we wanted them to do. Didn't start till 2:00 and finished at 6:00 P.M. It is 9:00 P.M. and Ray is still finishing it. I want to go up after I am finished with this. Ray rented a cement mixer so we will use that also tomorrow. Ray just walked in and said he will need to wait about an hour before he can finish it completely. Ray is really thankful for the help and is real pleased with the progress that we are making.

#### MONDAY

The computer was down. Merlin wanted to print something and the printer wouldn't work. Ray put the printer and the scanner on a separate switch and Merlin didn't know that. A wire came loose and we lost our monitor. HOW DEPRESSING.

Thursday morning we got started on the concrete again. Ray rented a mixer and it was delivered as we finished Wednesday evening. We got it set up and I tried it out. We thought that we could make a batch. Till I got all the stone, cement, sand and water in it, it was too much for the engine to turn it so we decided not to use it as the men were too curious to work. They all wanted to help me or watch how it worked. While the men ate lunch we decided to give it another try. We only did a half a batch (about two wheel barrows Africa brand) and it worked out okay. The nice thing was that it got mixed better than mixing by hand. I showed Merlin how to run it and I went to work with the men. We made good progress. Ray was kept busy finishing and Justin and I leveled and screeded. We finished around 4:30 and we let the men go home early. The mix from the mixer made it easier for Ray to get a nicer finish. It



started to rain so we covered it with plastic and waited for a little. Ray had to finish in the dark with the light again. We never did meet to plan the meal for the weddings so I made plans for 8:00 A.M. on Friday morning.

Friday I helped Ray get set up and then I took the cycle and picked up men to plan the meal. They went round and round for an hour and finally came to an agreement and I left them planning and went back to the concrete. We poured the whole back side of the house and were done by 4:00 and let the men go early again. They have been working very well together as long as you supervise them and keep them going. With the mixer helping all day it went faster, but it was hot and Ray really had to work to keep up but finished before dark. PTL.

Hosea bought a small bull for Peter's and Caleb's wedding and Edwin came to kill it. I went over and helped to skin it out. Sure is different than we do. They gave me the heart, tongue and some liver for helping. Did some reading before going to bed.

Saturday morning Ray and the boys went to Kitali for some things and to the bank. I read some this morning till was needed out in the tent. It felt good to relax this morning.

The weddings were to start at 11:00 but it was 1:15 till we got started. Everything went good. They served the meal at Hosea's and in the tent, then the couples went home. Ray's family took Marie to Kitali for supper as it was her birthday. The boys and I stayed home. I went to my room and read and the boys went down to see Pini as she came home this evening. Ray's got home around 8:00 and had cake so I joined them and visited a little.

Sunday morning I was to go to Ortum for services. Gilbert went along as we needed to discuss about the weddings there on Saturday. I took the cruiser and two bags of maize for their weddings and had a full load of people. Nancy and Marie went along. Services started close to on time and had a nice crowd but not full. Was windy and they haven't finished the church yet. Ray has not had time to get that done yet. We left there about 2:00. Got stopped at Chepcornishwa. They said that one of the sisters died and wanted some one to come to the funeral. Then took Marie down to see the

new church that we are building for them. Got home close to 3:00. Ate a little and laid down for a nap. Slept till Pini came. Talked with her for a while then went to services.

Gilbert preached about the characteristic of the church. Cheryl had the tongue and heart on and I made popcorn for supper. Visited with Ray and Cheryl for a while and then read again.

Monday got a good start on the house then made sure that Hosea and Gilbert were going to go to Chepcornishwa for the funeral. We were about out of cement so I went to town to get more. Got back and helped some. We had half of the men take their dinner break at different times so we could keep moving on the concrete. Was partly cloudy so it didn't set as fast as Friday. We finished the complete floor slab today around 3:15, the biggest pour yet, close to ten yards of concrete. We got a few little showers but not enough to damage any of the concrete. PTL. Since it wasn't so hot Ray has to finish part of it with lights tonight.

## TUESDAY

Last evening Ray and I were discussing what we were going to do on Tuesday. Justin came in the door and we asked him if he would like to help finish the roof of the Chepcornishwa church, so we decided to go up there today. Ray got the men started moving ground up at the house, I started loading supplies for the church. We left around 8:45, went to town to look for a door which we found. We went up to Chepcornishwa and Ray and Justin started putting iron sheets on while Merlin, Davidson and I dug and set the rest of the posts. Ray got the one side done till they brought tea. We all took a short break. Then I helped Justin and Ray get the first row of iron sheets on the other side done then he went to make a door frame for the door, while Justin and I finished the roof. Merlin and Davidson finished the last two posts. We finished up at 4:00 P.M. and left for home. Merlin, Justin and Davidson ran into Kitali for a few things and to the leather coat market before Justin goes home. They were able to bargain a good price for some nice coats. We went up to the house to see how the men made out and they had the verandah backfill finished. Ray and I discussed the height of the grade and how far to go with the cut out front. I will be keeping



the men working while Ray's are in Nairobi. Marie and Justin got most of their things gathered and packed tonight.

### WEDNESDAY

Justin woke me early to let him into the house so he could get a shower before going to Nairobi. I got up and got the wheel barrows out and greased the axles (they don't have a grease zerk to grease them, so you have to take the axle out and put them back together). Took the men up and showed them what we wanted them to do and got them started. Came down to the house, had breakfast, helped Ray load up the cruiser, checked on the men. I almost forgot that I was to go up to a new church which is on the way to Kaptalomwa called Paraywa for service. This is a satellite church from Chepcornishwa, under the leadership of Brother Francis Kederling. I was to be there between 10 and 11 and it was almost 10:00. I checked with Gilbert and he was almost ready. Came back and checked on the men and got my Bible and helmet and went to town for petrol for the cycle. Picked up Gilbert and we got there at around 10:45. Church started around 11:45. They worship under a tree on the top of a hill which looks out over Cheperaria. What a beautiful view. If it is clear you can see the Suam River and the Uganda border. We sang for a while till the rest of the members got there. I started to preach at 12:15 and about half way through I saw some rain clouds coming directly for us. I breathed a prayer for the Lord to divert it. We got a few sprinkles but it split on the knob right before the church. You could see it raining down in Cheperaria and on the other side of the mountain but not on us. What a dynamic display of God's power when we simply ask in faith.

My message was on Hope. There were fifteen adults and not sure how many children. It was a good service. Had to be translated into Pokot so took a little longer. After church they had a meal for everyone of rice and beans with tea. Was delicious. The first since I am back. Got back around 3:15 and visited with Gilbert for a while about some problems. Came back and checked with the men. They were making good head way today. Rode to town and got mail. Need to go talk with Edwin a little then I guess that will fill my day.



## THURSDAY

Got awake about 6:30, got up and put a load of jeans in the washer, got dressed and was putting my contacts in when there was a knock on the door. Florence was there with a man and wife from Kaplami that needed to go to the hospital. I sent them on up as I needed to get the men working first. Got the men started and came back down to the house and put the sheets in the washer. Hosea came and said that there was a man that was very sick and needed to go to the hospital so I got the van and we picked up Amundi and Solomon and dropped them off at the hospital. Came back, hung out the wash and got ready to go to Eldoret. I was going to go as I didn't need to be here for the men. Hosea asked to go along. I said that I was going to take the cycle. He said that was okay. I finished up the things that I had started and then we left for town about 11:40. We made good time to Eldoret. We looked in all the material shops for Hosea's material, couldn't find exactly what he wanted so took second best. Stopped at Paul's bakery for pizza and headed home. We stopped in Kaplami to see Peter but he wasn't home. We continued on and saw him on the way so stopped along the road and visited a little. Didn't get home till 5:30. Checked how the men made out and found they made good progress today. Went to Amundi's to check how he made out. The lady has malaria and Solomon has typhoid malaria, brucellosis and brucellosis so he was put in a ward. Came home, took down wash and made some fish and noodles for supper. Had left-over pumpkin pie for desert.

## FRIDAY

I got the men started up at the house, came down and hung out the wash that I did last evening. Then I went up to Amundi and Agnes for tea. She had mundazi, fried egg and tea. Had a good visit, was there around one and a half hours. Left there and stopped to see Amelda and Frank. Had a good visit with her.

Stopped by the house and checked on the men on the way home. Laid out the program for the wedding on Saturday and some other computer work. Checked with a few brethren about the plans for the wedding. When I got home Rays were here so helped un-

load and visited with them. While they were in Nairobi Ray got a set of tubeless tires put on the cruiser finally. Seems he never had enough time and space to haul the old ones home before, but since he got the roof rack put on he had room. It really made it look nice with good aluminum wheels. It also changed the handling, doesn't squirrel around on the road for those who understand those terms. Got to bed at a decent hour.

### SATURDAY

I left this morning at 8:30 and headed to Ortum. I had six people with me from here. Stopped in Chepcornishwa and picked up the quire, dropped them off at Ortum and then went to Sigor. Got a load and came back and had to go up through the bush to Ortum to get a second load and had to wait for 1:45 till they came so got a late start. The wedding was for Luka and Selina and Francis Kedi and Selina. Was a very simple wedding but nice. We had it at the church just below town off the main road. After the wedding Merlin took the one load in the van up through Sibet and I took the load to Sigor. Came back and got my load and headed for home. Here Merlin was along the road, the oil was low and they lost power. I took my load to Chepcornishwa, dropped them off and came back, got the load from the van and hooked up the tow rope and started out and it tore. Went a little ways and here it just pulled out. I retied it and then it worked. Ended up pulling him all the way to the top of the mountain. Didn't get home till around 8:00 P.M. so I spent around six hours of driving and preached a sermon and did the vows so I am beat. I am going to Chesubet tomorrow for services.

### SUNDAY

I was to go to Chesubet today and Merlin was to take Hosea to Kaptalamua. I left about 8:20 with Davidson on the cycle, stopped and got gas and headed out the road toward Kitali. Got to the last speed bump out at Jane Anyungu's place when I thought it felt like I had a flat tire. Stopped and sure enough it was flat. I told Davidson to get the next taxi and get back to the compound and tell Merlin to come and get me before he leaves. In less than a minute here comes a taxi and he got home just as Merlin was loading so everyone climbed out and Ray and Merlin came out to get me. I had started walking the cycle back to Makutano. Brought it home and I



changed clothes and went along with the load to Kaptalomwa.

Dropped them off and went on to Chesubet. Got there forty minutes late. Had a good service, about twenty church people there. There were some school children there, so as usual they were interested in a white person. They stood at the door and window. When I got up to preach I walked to the door and they all scattered. I walked towards the window and they all scattered. One of the brethren went out and invited them in so about twenty of them came in and that filled the church. After services there were a few questions while they finished preparing the meal. We had chicken, potatoes, rice, chapati and tea. Was good.

We left there around 2:30 and went back for the ones at Kaptalamua. When we got there they were in the field picking a few greens and cabbage. It started raining so it didn't take too long and they were back. The ladies there made a pot of potatoes for them so they ate and we left. Ray had bought some potatoes from one of the members before but never got them but they were ready so stopped by his farm and picked them up.

We got home around 6:15. Fellowshiped with a few of the brethren that were still here. Ray and his family and I walked up to the house to see what all was accomplished last week. The men made good progress. Ray plans to lay out the wall tomorrow and get the mason started by Wednesday. Continue to pray that God will give strength and wisdom in the work that is ahead.

Brother Merle Sweitzer

## **HATE THE EVIL, LOVE THE GOOD AND ESTABLISH JUDGEMENT**

"Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgement in the gate: it may be that the Lord God of hosts will be gracious unto the remnant of Joseph." Amos 5:15.

One of the great controversies within the earthly church is the question, "What is the work and purpose of the Church?" While the true Church may not be the remnant of Joseph, it is truly a remnant. Down through the ages of time the church has been bom-



barded and infiltrated by false teaching. But God always had a faithful remnant. At times they were so few that there appears to be no historical trace left of their existence. But we believe that the words of Jesus held true throughout the ages of time. "...and upon this rock (Peter's statement that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God) I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

The wisdom God gave to Amos, we believe is also words of instruction for the Church today. We are to hate the evil. While there are some Bible passages that seem to teach that God not only hates the evil but the evil doer as well and that this was also true of some Old Testament writers, the New Testament seems, to us, to agree with the conclusion that we are to "hate the sin but love the sinner." Sadly, the modern church has gone beyond this. It is becoming harder and harder to find anything that everyone agrees is evil. In I Peter 3:11 we read, "Let him eschew (shun) evil, and do good:..." It is not hard to understand the unwillingness to name evil in society as a whole. But we fail to understand the attitude and emphasis of the earthly church. Perhaps one of the problems is the recent teaching that we should avoid all negatives and only preach and teach what is positive. "Thou shalt not" is found throughout the Old Testament and inferred in the New Testament as well.

But the Bible is not all negative. We are to love the good. We do not agree with those who seem to think that there is no good left in the earthly church. While it is not perfect in a human sense, the holy remnant is good. Like Elijah of old we may come to the false conclusion that we (as an individual or denomination) are the only true believers God has left. We do not claim to understand or have a solution to the problem of the various teachings and rituals within the earthly church. We have come to the conclusion that God probably has some of His Elect in most of the modern denominations and gatherings. With all of the problems, there is still much good that we can love.

There is another aspect to loving the good. What God has established as proper and right is good. First of all, we are to love God with all of our heart, soul and mind. Then we are to love His

Holy Word. We are to love those things which He loves. Such things are honesty, moral living and trying to live in peace one with another.

Last of all, we are to establish judgement. This may be the most difficult of the three. Being judgmental is considered to be one of the atrocities of our day. And there is some truth to this. But we are informed that we should have the discernment to distinguish who are the false prophets (outside the church) and the false teachers (inside the church). We are also warned about the doctrines of man. We should be very careful what we establish as being necessary for salvation. On the other hand, if all Bible application is deemed to be merely the doctrines of men we have no guidelines to apply to those areas not specifically mentioned in the Bible for the simple reason that they are not invented yet.

We are also persuaded that God desires us to think alike and to be alike as much as is practical. When Jesus prayed that we should all be one we believe it was in a more general way. We are to be one in the true faith as He and the Father are one. The instructions in the epistles were given to local congregations, which, we believe, would now be considered denominations. It is our conviction that our manner of dress, our church worship and our church practices are all to be as close as possible in likeness. We are also convinced that this is to be a part of our witness to the world.

When we hate the evil, love the good and establish judgement we will receive the approval of God. Doing this will not always make you popular with society or even with the earthly church. But we are to please God, not man. May this be our desire and goal.

Brother James M. Hite  
816 E. Birch St.  
Palmyra, PA 17078-2704

### **FOR GOD SO LOVED...**

John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Is there someone in your life that you cannot stand? Hate is perhaps too strong a word, but there are some people that constantly give us a hard time. They do not like us, try to harm us, or bad-mouth us to others. What shall we do when we are treated ill, for good reason or not? We must pray for them. We must personalize our faith and also personalize our prayers.

One day, nearly thirty years ago, John 3:16 became very real and personal to me: For God so loved Lynn H. Miller, that he gave his only begotten son, that if Lynn H. Miller believes in him, Lynn H. Miller should not perish, but Lynn H. Miller will have everlasting life. O, how God loves us! He likewise gives us a heart of love. Ezekiel 36:26 says, "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you..."

This new heart will extend the Love of God to others, even those who hate us and spitefully use us. We will pray for these people because God loves them and we can do no less. The scriptures will then look this way: For God so loved Osama bin Laden that he gave his only begotten Son, that if Osama bin Laden believes in him, Osama bin Laden should not perish, but Osama bin Laden will have everlasting life. Do we believe that God can save to the uttermost?

Do we believe that it was our sins that nailed Jesus Christ the Son of God to that repugnant cross? Or do we think, "I am not so bad." Yet Christ, who had no sin, died in our place. What love!

Dearly we are bought, for God  
Bought us with his own heart's blood;  
Boundless depths of love divine!  
Jesus, what a love was thine!  
Though the wonders thou hast done  
Are as yet so little known,  
Here we fix and comfort take—  
Jesus died for sinners' sake.

Brother Lynn H. Miller  
70 Round Barn Road  
Newmanstown, PA 17073



**BIBLE STORIES****SORROW TURNED TO JOY**

Luke 7:11-18

Jesus went into a city called Nain. At this time Jesus had many disciples and a large crowd of people with Him. These people were excited and happy expecting to see Jesus do some miracle, for His reputation as a great healer and teacher had gone far and wide.

As Jesus and His followers came near to the gate of the city they met a group of people who were not so happy. They were carrying the body of a young man who had died, and he was the only son of a widow. There was a large crowd of people with her, and they were weeping and wailing the loss of this young man.

When Jesus saw this poor mother who had lost her only son, He felt sorry for her and said unto her, "Weep not."

Then Jesus came and touched the bier, and those that were carrying it stood still. A bier is a framework like a stretcher to carry a body to the grave. Then Jesus said the most wonderful words this mother had ever heard, "Young man, I say unto thee, Arise." And the young man that had been dead sat up and began to speak. I would like to know what he said, but the Bible doesn't say. Then Jesus delivered him to his mother.

What happiness, what joy was in that mother's heart! She would never be able to thank Jesus enough for giving back her only son whom she needed so much.

**QUESTIONS:**

- (1) When Jesus comes again will we be able to see Him? Rev. 1:7
- (2) Will He raise the dead to life? I Thessalonians 4:16-17

Brother Rudy Cover

**GENERAL CONFERENCE**

June 8-12, 2002

General Conference will be held at the Memorial Holiness Campgrounds, 6390 S. Jay Road, located 1 1/2 mile south west of West

Milton, Ohio.

Those traveling from the north on I-75 should exit at Route 55 and go west to Route 48. Then go south to Garland Road (approximately 1/2 mile south of West Milton) then west to Jay Road, then north to grounds.

Those coming from the north on Route 127 should take Route 571 from Greenville to Davis Road, south to Jay Road then south to grounds.

Those coming from east or west on I-70 should exit at Route 48 and proceed north approximately 6 mile to Garland Road and proceed west to Jay Road then north to grounds.

By plane, come to Dayton International Airport and call the camp grounds for someone to pick you up. If you are traveling by bus come to Dayton. There is a local bus service from Dayton to Union.

The Camp Grounds phone number is 937-698-9387.

If possible, bring your own bedding. There will be bedding available for rent at a nominal fee at the grounds for those who cannot bring their own.

There are plenty of camper hook-ups available.

Lodging Committee: Don and Lue Hostetler

Rick and Anna St. John

Fred and Jane Johnson

Please send your reservations as soon as possible to:

Don Hostetler

8483 Arcanum-Bears Mill Rd.

Greenville, OH 45331

Phone: 937-548-7382

e-mail [deh84@voyager.net](mailto:deh84@voyager.net)

Brother Paul Stump, Arrangements Committee

WAYNESBORO, PENNSYLVANIA

The Waynesboro Congregation invites you to attend all-day services on May 5. Sunday School with preaching to follow will be at 9:30 after which you are invited to join us for dinner. Further

preaching services will be held at 2:00 in the afternoon and our Lovefeast Service will be in the evening.

Sister Mary Alice Shaffer, Cor.

### THANK YOU

I want to thank the Brethren and Sisters who sent cards, little gifts, and especially the prayers for my 85th birthday from every congregation in the Brotherhood. May God richly bless each one of you.

In Christian love  
Brother Lester Bittinger

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR MAY 2002

May 5 - Disorder for Dinner Instead of the Lord's Supper-I Cor.  
11:17-34

1. What must we do individually to make sure we come together "for the better", especially for a communion service?
2. Of what does "examining" myself really consist?

May 12 - MOTHER'S DAY - Luke 2:1-52

1. What answer do you think Mary expected when she said, "Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us"?
2. Explain the phrase, "But his mother kept all these sayings in her heart".

May 19 - Spiritual Gifts as Manifestations of the Spirit-I Cor. 12:1-13

1. What requirements must be met for us to receive Spiritual gifts?
2. How can we know what Spiritual gift(s) we have?



May 26 - Many Members but One Body - I Cor. 12:14-31

1. Why has God created us each so differently that it takes all of us working together to make a complete body?
2. What are the "best gifts" that Paul said we should "covet earnestly"?

## **YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR MAY 2002**

May 5 - A Redeemer - Isa. 59:1-21, Acts 4:10-12

1. Why was, and still is, a Redeemer necessary?
2. Why was Jesus Christ, the son of God, the only person who could be the Redeemer of mankind?

May 12 - MOTHER'S DAY - Gen. 3:17-24, 27:1-16 & 42-46, Prov. 31:1-31

1. Why is Eve called the mother of all living?
2. Why did Rebekah help her son, Jacob, deceive his father, Isaac?

May 19 - Redemption - Rom. 3:24-26, I Cor. 1:27-31, Gal. 3:1-14, Col. 1:12-18, Titus 2:11-15, Rev. 5:9-10, Heb. 9:11-12, I Pet. 1:18-25

1. How can we, as Gentiles, receive the blessing God gave to Abraham?
2. How can we be delivered from the power of darkness and translated into the Kingdom of Christ?

May 26 - Battle of Life - Rom. 7:14-25, II Cor. 10:3-6, Eph. 6:12, I Tim. 1:18-20 & 6:12-16

1. What is the battle we will continually fight during our life-time on earth?
2. What weapons are necessary to be victorious in this spiritual battle?

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# BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXX

MAY 2002

NO. 5

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

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OUR MOTTO: Scriptural in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,  
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

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## COME LET US SEARCH OUR WAYS

Come, let us search our ways and see,  
Have they been just and right?  
In the great rule of equity  
Our practice and delight?

What we would have our neighbor do,  
Have we still done the same,  
From others ne'er withheld the due  
Which we from others claim?

Do we, in all we sell or buy,  
Integrity maintain?  
And knowing God is always nigh,  
Renounce unrighteous gain?

Then may we raise our modest prayer  
To God, the just and kind;  
May humbly cast on him our care,  
And hope his grace to find.

-Isaac Watts

## CHRISTIAN LIBERTY/BROTHERLY LOVE

It is often necessary to caution those who enjoy great freedom that they have an equal responsibility. Freedom without responsibility becomes anarchy. If freedom is unrestrained, others may be hurt. Freedom must be used responsibly.

In a free society like the United States, there are tensions between various groups, all of whom want to exercise their total freedom. It is necessary for each group to limit its activities so they do not infringe on another group's activities. Freedom without proper responsibility of each group will bring many undesired effects.

The need for responsibility not only applies to political and social freedoms. Responsibility is needed in the Christian life as well.

A Christian has a great freedom. He has gained his liberty from the bondage of sin that Satan uses to ensnare everyone. Not only does the Christian have this freedom but also liberty in many other things.

Because the Christian is not in bondage to the worthless idol worship of this world, the power of idols do not bind him as they do the people who give their allegiance to the gods of this world. The gods of this world are many. They come in various shapes and sizes. They often are not recognized because they do not readily appear to be gods. They come disguised as ordinary things and activities of this life. The gods of today's world do not appear as

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strange statues or places of sacrifice. Today's gods may take the form of automobiles, money, position, fame, beauty or many other everyday things that people desire. People will sacrifice their best efforts and even their morals to obtain the favor of today's gods.

Christians are not to be under the power of the gods of this world. They know that the gods of this world do not possess real power. Real power is in the hands of God, therefore a Christian does not worship at the altar of the world's gods. This is a great freedom in the midst of a society that pursues these gods daily.

The Corinthians were reminded that the gods they had once worshipped had no power at all. Those who understood this freedom were tempted to eat the meat that had been offered as a sacrifice to the heathen gods. Most of the meat sold in the "shambles" had previously been offered as a sacrifice to those gods. They reasoned since those gods did not have any real power they could eat that meat without regard to its previous use as a sacrifice. Physically the meat was unchanged by being a sacrifice, but there was a Spiritual danger in eating it.

Paul warned the Corinthians who felt strong enough to partake of this meat, that though it might not harm them, they still had a responsibility to their fellow believers. That responsibility accompanied their Christian freedom. They might eat of that meat and regard it as nothing more than good meat. However, there might be other weaker believers who would observe their flagrant eating of that meat and be emboldened to partake of the meat themselves. The danger was that as recently delivered Christians they would still regard the meat as having been offered to a local god. Their conscience would be harmed by this activity, since they still were showing a regard for that heathen god.

Paul warned that the stronger must forgo some activities that might not be harmful to themselves, but could be Spiritually harmful to some of their weaker companions. Their Christian freedom carried with it a responsibility for the Spiritual well being of their fellow believers. They could not exercise their freedom fully for fear another would be misdirected if they followed in the same activity.



This limit on Christian liberty was not only a consideration for the Corinthian Church, it remains a valid concern among Christians today. The question is often raised about the Church's ban upon some particular activity. It may be felt that the ban is unnecessary. That particular activity may not be considered to be wrong in itself, but if a weak believer is emboldened to participate in that activity it may prove dangerous to his Spiritual well being.

It is great privilege to be given the degree of Christian freedom that is ours. However we need to regulate ourselves in the pursuit of such a great freedom so we do not cause another believer to fall. We need to take care that our freedom does not generate a bad report concerning the Church in the community.

In this as in all our Christian duties, we must remember that the Golden Rule is the best rule of all. "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you."

M.C.Cook

## **COMMISSIONED FOR A SPECIAL TASK**

Acts 13:1-25

Barnabas and Saul had just returned to Antioch from Jerusalem (where they had delivered an offering). As the preachers engaged in the work of the ministry at Antioch, suddenly, as they ministered and fasted, one day out of the blue, the Holy Spirit gave instructions that they were to separate Barnabas and Saul and commission them for some special work to which they had been called. So they fasted and prayed some more. They, then, laid their hands on Barnabas and Saul and sent them away to destinations known only to the Holy Spirit. Talk about traveling in faith!

Barnabas and Saul did not seem to have any trouble discerning the direction of the Holy Spirit. They went to Cyprus and began preaching the word of God in the synagogues. Note that John (Mark) was along helping.

When they came to Paphos, they encountered some opposition by "the enemy." Note carefully Paul's rebuke in verses 10 and 11. Rather than having the Spirit of God kill the false prophet, Paul

called down temporary blindness on the man. Can you think of any time when Paul used this type of rebuke again in his life?

There are two special things to note here. One is that Saul's name was changed to Paul in verse 9. Paul was filled with the Holy Ghost. Notice also in verse 13 how the reading goes: "Now when **Paul and his company** loosed from Paphos,..." Suddenly, it's not **Barnabas and Saul** anymore (verse 7), but it is "Paul and his company." From here on out, the emphasis in the book of Acts is on Paul's ministry. Barnabas had been the one who first believed in Paul in Jerusalem. He had taken Paul under his wing. But at this point, he was graciously taking "second place" to Paul in the ministry of the Word. Also note that John (Mark) departed from them and returned to Jerusalem. There is no reason given here; just the fact that he left Paul and Barnabas.

Next, Paul and Barnabas came to Antioch in Pisidia, and as was the custom for special guests, preached at the synagogue. Note carefully how Paul briefly outlined Israel's history (like Stephen), and through that pointed the way to Christ. Paul began wherever his audience was, and led them to Jesus Christ.

**Summary Thought...**It takes special grace and humility for any man to take "second place" in the role of ministry in the church. Never get jealous if someone else seems to get the preeminence in the ministry of the Word (in the work of the Church). God has an important place for each believer. We each need to discover that place. We each need to work contentedly *and faithfully* in it. It is good to rejoice when others receive a higher calling.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Brother Robert S. Lehigh

## KENYA KNOTES

### TUESDAY

I awakened around 6:00. I checked my e-mail and there was one from my wife. I had not heard from her since Thursday evening as she went to her folks' cabin up state. I could not stand it, so I called her. They had not been able to get through on the phone as

there must be some problems with the phone system here in Kenya. It was so good to hear her voice. That was only the second time that I talked to her in the last five weeks. Those of you who are able to talk to your wife and do not take time, you will never know how sweet your wife's voice sounds till you cannot hear it every day, and you better not take it for granted.

There were two men here to see me. There was an old man that was laying out along the road. Someone had dropped him off during the night. They were told that we were a hospital and would help. Hosea checked it out and sent them to the hospital. We get all kinds of people who stop here and need assistance but we cannot help every one. I checked with the men who are working up at the house to see if they needed anything before I left.

Merlin and Davidson loaded the tools and things we needed to finish building the fence for the Ortum church property. We left around 9:30. We had a good day. We finished the fence except for the gate. Ray will make a gate for it later. We got back home around 5:30. Put everything away. Nancy had supper ready so we ate.

#### WEDNESDAY

Got up and did a few things here, until the people came that I needed to go with to Kapenguria to the Government Offices. Left around 9:15. We were there until 1:00. They all went for lunch, so we came home and ate some. We went back at 2:15 and were there until 4:45. Glad I had my book along. It does not bother me if I have a book along to read. I came home, ate supper, then went and visited with Hosea and Florence for a while. Came home and read till I fell asleep.

#### THURSDAY

When I got up, two of the girls were in the kitchen peeling potatoes, so I helped them and made hashed browns and bacon for breakfast. Till I was done it was around 9:15. I went back up to the Government offices and waited till 2:30 till I finished all the paper work. I finished my book and wandered around for about twenty minutes until they were done. I came home and there was another girl here whom I was helping to register for her final exams. So I



grabbed another book and went back up to Kapenguria. Didn't get home until around 5:15. Had pizza for supper. Got a shower early and went to my room and read for quite a while. I am really enjoying the time that I have had to read. Although it is lonely without my wife here with me!!

#### FRIDAY

Slept a little late as I did not sleep well last night. We had a visitor at the gate this morning. A young fellow, Myron Sauder, from Mountville, Pennsylvania. He is studying to be a teacher at Messiah College and is studying here in Kenya for one term. He heard about us through Cheryl's friend so he came by bus and will be with us for the weekend, as it is a long weekend for Easter.

Cheryl made pancakes for breakfast and it got a little late. I checked the brakes on the van as they were pulling to one side but everything was fine. I finished with that and did some computer work. I got ready to go to Kaplami for services. I stopped down and picked up Edwin as he has been going there every Sunday to preach for them. I need to get a few things in Kitali. Had around fifteen for services. Had a good worship service. Came out through Sibanga as Edwin wanted to get milk to make tea for his wedding tomorrow. Hauled some wood and a sheep here to the compound for the meal at the wedding tomorrow. I arrived home around 6:00 P.M. I had rice, stir fry beef and spinach for supper with cup cakes for dessert.

The mason started on the house on Wednesday so there is not as much physical work to be done at the moment for me. I would like to finish the fence up for the Ortum church yet before I go home.

#### SATURDAY

A double wedding is planned for today, but did not know what the plans were to be so I got all my things ready. The weddings were scheduled to start at 10:00 A.M. but!!!!!!! at 12:15 Henry came and asked if I was going to pick up Edwin. I said that I never heard I was, so I went down and got him. Came back and was here about twenty minutes and Moses came and asked if I was going to pick up Joshua. I never heard from them either so went to Arumeget

and brought them back. Edwin was in the church and Jane was on her way in when I got back. We finally started around 1:45 P.M. They had a meal here so everything was over around 5:30 or so. Merlin took Joshua and Beatrice home and I took Edwin and Jane home. I came back, changed clothes and took the cycle and went to see James. He just returned home this morning. I got home around 9:15, had a good visit with him.

#### SUNDAY

I was scheduled to go to Chepcornishwa for services today and we were also having a wedding after services. I left around 8:45 and went to Paraywa to pick up the church there and went to Chepcornishwa. I got there around 10:45. Ray brought a van load from home also and then a load came from Ortum. So the church was full. We had the first service in the new church. They have about half the sticks on the side and will soon be ready for mud. There were around 150 or so at church so it was full. Ray had the devotions then I had the message. After the message, I had a short dedication service for the new church. After the services I had to go to Cheperaria to get the bride. The wedding got under way around 2:00 p.m. Was a good and simple wedding for Christopher and Susan. Christopher is the teacher at the Paraywa church which is a satellite from the Chepcornishwa church under Pastor Francis Kederling. A large crowd for this wedding. I took a load back to Paraywa on my way home. Got home and there were a few people here to see Chad's wedding video. Ray and I talked till about 1:00 A.M. as he is going to Nairobi to pick up Hannah Powell and check for supplies for the house.

#### MONDAY

Ray and Cheryl and the two youngest girls along with three or four natives left for Nairobi around 9:30. I wrote some e-mail till the Brethren came for Kenya mission board meeting around 10:45. Board meeting lasted till 5:30. We discussed a number of agendas that they wanted my input and suggestions. The Brethren are doing a good job of leading the church. They have made some mistakes but so do we all. Only a few days left till I go home. I have mixed feelings as I always do. Part of me wants to stay here and

continue the work which I really enjoy but my wife and family have a very strong pull.

### WEDNESDAY

I spent the morning checking on Agnes and the arrangements for the funeral. They had to wait till they could get the papers to transport the babies to the home place. They did not get released till after 11:00 and there was not enough time to go to the home place and come back so we told them that we would do it tomorrow. The Makutano Congregation had a council meeting planned for this afternoon and wanted me to help with that. It started around 4:15 and lasted till around 6:30. Was able to say good-bye to most of the members afterward. I got all my things gathered together for tonight and then visited with Ray again till late.

### THURSDAY

Ray got his men started on the house then prepared to take the people to bury the babies. We got ready to leave and said our good-byes. We had to meet Ray in Kitali as we both needed money and only had one bank card. Merlin, Davidson and I left from there to go to Nairobi. Stopped in Nakuru to get a few souvenirs. Also stopped and visited with Allen Yoder. Was good to see and visit with him again. We got to Nairobi around 7:30 P.M.

### FRIDAY

We went to a bank downtown to make a deposit to see if we could get Davidson's visa. We went to the U. S. Embassy. I had to wait about one and a half hours till I was able to see a person. They never responded to my e-mail that I sent on Monday. They said that they have too many inquires to respond that quickly so I did not have a confirmation number and therefore was not able to have an appointment to get the visa. We left there and went and had the brush guard put on the cruiser and did some other shopping around town. Went to bed at a decent hour tonight.

### SATURDAY

After breakfast we headed out on the town to finish up all the errands and shopping that we had planned. We found everything and were back late in the afternoon and were able to relax before



supper. After supper we all went out to Joseph Oguto to visit. I really surprised him. His e-mail was not working and he never received the e-mail that I was in the country. They were just finishing their supper so they made some for us. We had fish, rice and liver with broth. We left there around 10:00 P.M.

## SUNDAY

Ray rode the bus overnight to Nairobi and got in to the guest house around 5:00 A.M. and crawled into the cruiser and slept till breakfast. We got all our things packed into the cruiser and ate an early breakfast and left for the airport by 7:30. Took a little while till we got through check in, said good-bye to Ray, Davidson and Carol and went through passport control. Wasn't too long till we boarded the plane. Every seat was full, had a good flight. We had a motel at Amsterdam for the night. We were delayed one and a half hours. We arrived at Detroit. Our plane had mechanical failures, so we had to wait forty minutes for another plane. Arrived at Harrisburg one hour later than scheduled but we got here. PTL. Was so good to see my family. Didn't realize how much till I was with them again. God was good and I felt I had accomplished most of the things that I had gone to do.

In His service  
Brother Merle Sweitzer

## WORKERS

Greeting to Everyone from sunny and beautiful Kenya.

It has really been a blessing to be back in Kenya serving the Lord again. It has been good to see the progress on the house. The walls are being laid at this time. Since Bro. Ray is building this house the way we would in America, we always have people that need to stop and see what is going on and ask a lot of questions. It will take the mason about four weeks to finish laying all the brick.

I have heard that there was some interest in volunteers coming to help with the construction of the house. Bro. Ray and I have discussed a possible time frame. If everything goes according to plans, but we are in Africa, so who knows? From around the third

week in May there would be work here for around four men (or more) to help with building trusses and putting the roof on, plumbing, electrical. The middle of June a mason could help with plastering all the inside walls and possibly pointing the brick on the outside. Late June on into July and more if needed there would be the need for ceiling installed and tile on the floor, painting walls and all the rest of finishing up work on a house.

This is an overall summary of the work that is available for someone that may be interested. The time frame could change due to any number of circumstances.

If anyone is interested in giving some time, here are the steps that would need to be taken. Please contact either Bro. Merle Sweitzer at [mandcswtzer@juno.com](mailto:mandcswtzer@juno.com) or Bro. Ray Noecker at [dbchurch@africaonline.co.ke](mailto:dbchurch@africaonline.co.ke) for further information. A passport is needed to travel out of the country. The form is available at your local or state court house. There are also some vaccinations that are recommended. We can share these with you when you contact us. The cost of tickets varies from \$1,200 to \$1,600 per person depending when you would come and also the area from which you would leave. I would recommend between two to three week stay so that you become accustomed to the altitude and have a little time to see some of Kenya first hand. Also be ready to share with the teaching and the preaching as the people here are eager to listen to someone new.

In His service,  
Brother Merle Sweitzer

## A PLACE FOR ME

"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." John 14:1-2.

Yes, I shall soon be landed  
On yonder shores of bliss.

There, with my powers expanded,  
Shall dwell where Jesus is.

Yes, I shall soon be seated  
With Jesus on his throne  
My foes be all defeated,  
And sacred peace made known.

With Father, Son, and Spirit,  
I shall for ever reign,  
Sweet joy and peace inherit,  
And every good obtain.

I soon shall reach the harbor,  
To which I speed my way,  
Shall cease from all my labor,  
And there for ever stay.

O that in Jordan's swelling  
I may be helped to sing,  
And pass the river, telling  
The triumphs of my King.

-Gadsby's Hymnal #483

When I was sixteen years old I discovered a Book that was written for me many hundreds of years ago. I read that book for three years, then I met the author of the Book. How, you ask, can you meet the author of a Book that is hundreds, even thousands, of years old? You can when the author is God. When I picked up that marvelous Book I read how that God had a Son whom He was willing to send to earth to die so that the whole world could live. I read John 3:16 and put in my name.

We remember reading about the prodigal son, who went to a



strange land and wasted his inheritance in riotous living. That was me. We read about Heaven and how Jesus is preparing a place for us: a place for me. Do I deserve it? The answer is no. The prodigal son deserved nothing from his father when he returned home, yet his father loved him. God loves us and is willing to accept us back if we are willing to come to Him in faith, forsaking our sins and embracing Christ as our Saviour, because He paid the price and became the sacrifice. Do we think about that place He is building for us? Maybe the older folks do, but all of us should. It will surely be greater than anything on this old earth.

Brother Lynn H. Miller  
70 Round Barn Road  
Newmanstown, PA 17073

## DID JESUS RISE FROM THE DEAD?

by Randy Chase

The bodily resurrection of Jesus from the dead, if true, establishes the following facts:

1. The existence of God who raised Jesus from the dead (Acts 13:30, 31).
2. The credibility of all of Jesus' miracles and claims to be the Son of God (John 5:17-19, Romans 1:4), the Jewish Messiah (John 2:18-22, 4:25-26), and His ability to forgive men's sins against God (Mark 2:5-10).
3. The existence of life after death.
4. The future bodily resurrection of all people to heaven or hell (Matthew 25:31-34, 41, Acts 17:31).
5. That Jesus' resurrected body is a type and a first-fruit of the resurrected body that a believer in Him will have eternally in heaven (I Corinthians 15:20, I John 3:2).

There are five types of evidence for Jesus' bodily resurrection from the dead. These are:

- I. The testimony of the New Testament.
- II. The testimony of ancient Christian writers.

III. The testimony of the 1st century Jewish historian Josephus.

IV. The testimony of the 2nd century pagan Roman historian Phlegon.

V. The testimony of scholars of the modern era.

I. The testimony of the New Testament.

That the New Testament (N.T.) is a generally reliable source for Jesus (which for the most part is denied by the Jesus Seminar) is attested to by the Biblical scholar Dr. Josh McDowell, the classical and N.T. scholar Dr. F. F. Bruce, the philosopher Dr. Norman Geisler, and the historian Dr. John Montgomery.

Dr. Montgomery (Ph.D. in History), says, "What then, does a historian know about Jesus Christ? He knows first and foremost that the N.T. documents [writings] can be relied upon to give an accurate portrait of Him." He also says, "To be skeptical of the resultant text [copies] of the N.T. is to allow all of the classical antiquity [the writings of the Greeks and Romans - such as Plato and Aristotle] to slip into obscurity, for no documents of the ancient period [before 476 A.D.] are as well attested bibliographically [from written sources] as [is] the N.T."

Some examples of the bibliographical attestation to the N.T. are Bishop Clement of Rome (35-100 A.D.) - who knew the apostle Paul (Phil. 4:3), Bishop Ignatius (50-115) - who knew the apostle John, and Bishop Polycarp (70-155) - who also knew the apostle John. Altogether, they quote from seventeen N.T. books, including Matthew, Luke, Acts, Romans, and I Corinthians - which Clement attributes to Paul. Also, Bishop Papias (60-130) - who knew some of the associates of the apostles, mentions Matthew and Mark as having written their gospels, and that the source for Mark's gospel was the apostle Peter (see also I Peter 5:13). Lastly, the Christian Biblical scholar Irenaeus (125-195) - who was taught by Polycarp, quotes from and attributes the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. He also quotes from and attributes the Book of Acts to Luke - who knew the apostles (Luke 1:1-4) - (The Ante-Nicene Fathers, Vol. 1).

The evidence for Christ's crucifixion, death, and bodily resurrection from the N.T. is as follows:

1. The four gospel writers - Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

2. The apostle Peter when speaking to the men of Israel at Jerusalem (Acts 2:22-24, 31-32; 3:15), and when he spoke to the Roman centurion Cornelius (Acts 10:39-41). Here Peter says in verses 39-41, "And we [the apostles] are witnesses of all the things which He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem. And they also put Him to death by hanging Him on a cross. [But] God raised Him up on the third day, and granted that He should become visible...to us, who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead." That we can believe Peter here is attested by his claim in 2 Peter 1:16. Here he says, "For we [the apostles-such as Matthew and John] have not followed cunningly devised myths, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty."

3. The apostle Paul when speaking to the pagan philosophers at Athens (Acts 17:31), and when he wrote to the church at Corinth. In I Corinthians 15:1-7, he says that Christ was seen after He arose from the dead by Cephas (Peter), by James (Christ's brother), by the twelve apostles, and by over 500 brethren at one time - most of whom he says were still alive when he wrote to them at about 56 A.D.

## II. The testimony of ancient Christian writers.

That Christ was crucified, died, and was raised bodily from the dead was a common belief among all the ancient Christian writers. Some of these men are Clement of Rome, Ignatius, Polycarp, Papias, Irenaeus, the philosopher Justin Martyr (100-165), the historian Theophilus (c.180), the judicial scholar Tertullian (160-225), the philosopher Clement of Alexandria (c.200), the historian Julius Africanus (160-240), the Biblical scholar Origen (185-255), the church historian Eusebius (260-340), and the Biblical scholars Jerome (c.400), Augustine (c.400), and John Chrysostom (c.400).

## III. The testimony of the 1st century Jewish historian Josephus.

Josephus (37-100), says that after Christ's crucifixion under Pilate, "[H]e appeared to them [the apostles] alive on the third day..." (Antiquities of the Jews, 18.3.3). That Josephus actually said this (and other things) about Christ is attested to by Eusebius (The



Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers, Vol. 1, pp.97-98).

IV. The testimony of the 2nd century pagan Roman historian Phlegon.

Phlegon (90-150), as quoted by Origen, says, "Jesus...arose after [H]is death, and exhibited the marks of [H]is punishment, and showed how [H]is hands had been pierced by nails" (The Ante-Nicene Fathers, Vol. 4, p.455).

V. The testimony of scholars of the modern era.

There have been thousands of scholars of the modern era (since the 16th century) who have believed in Christ's crucifixions, death, and bodily resurrection. Some examples of these scholars are:

1. Dr. Thomas Arnold (1792-1842), was an Oxford history professor who wrote a three-volume History of Rome. He regarded Christ's death and bodily resurrection as the best-established fact of history.
2. Dr. Simon Greenleaf (1783-1853), was a Harvard law professor. He regarded Christ's death and bodily resurrection as an historical fact.
3. Frank Morison, a lawyer, at first regarded Christ's bodily resurrection as a myth. However, after he studied the evidence for Christ's bodily resurrection, he changed his mind and wrote a book in defense of Christ's bodily resurrection called, *Who Moved The Stone?*
4. Dr. Gary Habermas, a philosopher, wrote on Christ's crucifixion, death, and bodily resurrection as an historical fact in his book, *Did Jesus Rise From The Dead?*
5. Dr. Paul Maier, a professor of ancient history, wrote on Christ's crucifixion, death, and bodily resurrection as an historical fact in his book, *In the Fullness of Time*.
6. Dr. Pinchas Lapide, an Orthodox Jewish Biblical scholar, wrote on Christ's crucifixion, death, and bodily resurrection as an historical fact in his book, *The Resurrection of Jesus: A Jewish Perspective*.

7. Robert Faid, a scientist and a former agnostic, wrote on Christ's crucifixion, death, and bodily resurrection as an historical fact in his book, *A Scientific Approach to Christianity*.
8. Randy Chase, a Biblical scholar and the author of this tract, says, "There is more historical evidence for Christ's crucifixion, death, and bodily resurrection than there is for nearly all the other events of ancient history."

In light of the evidence for the bodily resurrection of Jesus from the dead one would be wise to take heed to Him when He said, "And this is the will of Him [God] that sent me, that everyone which seeth the Son [Jesus], and believeth on Him, may have everlasting life, and I will raise him up at the last day" (John 6:40).

Selected

## MEMO FROM GOD

To: YOU

Date: TODAY

From: THE BOSS

Subject: YOURSELF

Reference: LIFE

I am God. Today I will be handling all of your problems. Please remember that I do not need your help.

If life happens to deliver a situation to you that you cannot handle, do not attempt to resolve it. Kindly put it in the SFGTD (something for God to do) box. All situations will be resolved, but in My time, not yours.

Once the matter is placed into the box, do not hold onto it by worrying about it. Instead, focus on all the wonderful things that are present in your life now.

If you find yourself stuck in traffic; Don't despair. There are people in this world for whom driving is an unheard of privilege.

Should you have a bad day at work; Think of the man who has been out of work for years.

Should you despair over a relationship gone bad; Think of the person who has never known what it's like to love and be loved in return.

Should you grieve the passing of another weekend; Think of the woman in dire straits, working twelve hours a day, seven days a week to feed her children.

Should your car break down, leaving you miles away from assistance; Think of the paraplegic who would love the opportunity to take that walk.

Should you notice a new gray hair in the mirror; Think of the cancer patient in chemo who wishes she had hair to examine.

Should you find yourself at a loss and pondering what is life all about, asking what is my purpose? Be thankful. There are those who didn't live long enough to get the opportunity.

Should you find yourself the victim of other people's bitterness, ignorance, smallness or insecurities; Remember, things could be worse. You could be one of them.

Selected

## **A NEW FORM OF PIETISM**

"In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes." Judges 21:25.

"Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be like-minded one toward another according to Christ Jesus: That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." Romans 15:5-6.

Unlike most of the Anabaptist groups, the Brethren have from the beginning accepted Pietism as part of our belief system. Pietism acknowledges that each individual must have a personal experience with the Lord Jesus Christ. It also acknowledges that personal decisions must be personal convictions rather than merely being a group decision. We were not the only group to accept this theological understanding. What made us unique was that we combined Pietism with the Anabaptist faith.



There is a new type of Pietism that has invaded our Brethren faith. Like Israel in the time of the Judges every man desires to do that which is right in his own eyes. Rules and regulations are understood to be, for the most part, a type of legalistic attempt to control the lives of members. Those who would contend for the old ways are seen, all too often, as a type of Pharisee or legalistic Jew which caused havoc in the New Testament Church.

How does the Bible view this issue? Are a large segment of the radio and television preachers correct? Is it wrong to put forth standards and guidelines for members to follow?

Our verses taken from the book of Romans speaks of a God of patience. We believe this is an example for the Church. We should be very careful when we find fault with one another that it is not merely a personal desire rather than a biblical conviction. On the other hand, if our actions run counter to a group decision we may be practicing a new form of Pietism. A very difficult part of this discussion is when the majority decides to change what was once considered to be correct.

The verses also speak of a God of consolation. The meaning of consolation is to comfort. It should be our desire to bring peace and joy into the body of Christ rather than fighting and anger. Our love for one another is to surpass that of the world. When one is hurting physically, mentally or spiritually we should be a spiritual balm.

We are to be like minded one toward another according to Jesus Christ. What was the example Jesus gave us in this area? While He was always loving and kind towards His followers, he gave them expectations beyond that of the popular religious groups of His time on Earth. Contrary to modern popular teaching, Jesus Christ was never easy on sinful practices. He upheld the moral commands of the Old Testament and added to them. He never preached or taught an easy way to Heaven. The modern thinking that discipleship is optional was foreign to His teaching.

We are to glorify God with one mind. This does not sound to us like the popular teaching that we can think differently on a subject and yet be one. Yes, there may be times that an individual may

have to "stand alone" for what they believe. But this can only be true when a group decision runs counter to Scriptural teaching.

We are also to glorify God with one mouth. When an individual decides that the majority of Christianity is correct to make the prayer covering optional or even unnecessary are we still speaking with one mouth? It can be argued that God desires that all Christians are to be One. This is certainly true. But God never desires that His children be disobedient to His Holy Word. What about practices not mentioned in Holy Scripture? The first to come to mind is our plain dress. Is this not one way to glorify God both with one mind and one mouth? When part of the body accepts theistic evolution while the other part contends for a literal six day Creation are we speaking with one mouth?

In conclusion, over the years the Brethren have recognized the need for personal conviction in various areas. Group decisions have changed some practices. We do not view this as wrong. But the new form of Pietism seems to go beyond this. May our desire be to glorify God and follow Christ in all our actions.

Brother James M. Hite  
816 E. Birch St.  
Palmyra, PA 17078-2704

## **BIBLE STORIES**

### **THE MASTER OF WIND AND SEA**

Mark 4:35-41

One day as Jesus was teaching the people by the Sea of Galilee there were so many people that he sat in a boat a little way out in the water close to the shore. As evening drew near He said to His disciples, "Let's go over to the other side of the lake." The disciples then sent the people away because Jesus needed to rest. Tired out, Jesus lay down in the back of the boat with His head on a pillow and was soon fast asleep.

It was a beautiful evening and other boats were going across the lake, too - no doubt filled with people who wanted to follow Jesus wherever He might go. The sun went down, the stars came

out, and a gentle breeze filled the sails, carrying all the boats toward the land of the Gadarenes.

Suddenly, the weather changed, even as it does on Galilee today. A sudden storm swept down the mountains turning the peaceful lake into a wild and dangerous sea. Lightning flashed. Thunder roared. The wind became a hurricane making great waves that swept over the boats filling them with water. So hard was the storm that even Peter, James, John and the other disciples were frightened, and they had fished in the lake since they were boys. This was the worst storm they had ever seen. They felt sure the boat would sink.

Then they remembered Jesus - Jesus who could do anything! He was still asleep; the terrific storm had not even wakened Him!

The disciples didn't want to disturb the Master, but as the water rose higher in the boat and all hope was gone, they felt they could stand it no longer. Shouting above the noise of the gale, one of them said, "Master, don't you care that we perish?"

Jesus stood up in the water that was splashing in the boat. Looking around at the dark and angry sky and fearful waves, He said to the sea, "Peace, be still." Suddenly there was a great calm and the wind stopped blowing. And Jesus said unto His disciples, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?"

And the disciples were very much afraid and said one to another, "What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?"

What a wonderful Saviour we have! Don't you think so?

Brother Rudy Cover

## **THE DANGER OF PROCRASTINATION**

Harold S. Martin

The Bible says that all of us have sinned and all deserve punishment (Romans 3:23; 6:23), but it also assures us that Jesus Christ has died to pay the penalty incurred by our sins (Romans 3:24-25). Those who accept this message of Good News receive



complete pardon when they believe the Gospel, repent of their sins, and identify with God's people in Christian baptism (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16). But many people procrastinate when it comes to the act of putting off until a future time; it means to habitually postpone. There are four urgent, pressing reasons why no person should ever say "Tomorrow" or "Sometime later" when faced with a decision about preparation for the life to come.

### 1. THE HOLY SPIRIT CALLS TODAY

The message of the Holy Spirit to every last soul is "Be saved today." The devil says, "Wait and put it off until tomorrow." God says, "Come and come right now." The Bible says, "Today if you hear his voice, harden not your hearts" (Hebrews 3:15).

One thing sure—the day of grace is still open for each one reading this message. The Saviour pleads with individuals to come to Him now. God's Holy Spirit calls now. The Spirit of God seeks people who are lost and convicts them, and warns them, and strives with them—in order that they might be saved. But remember that God's Spirit will not always call. He may not call tomorrow. The Bible says, "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found; call ye upon him while he is near" (Isaiah 55:6). And in another place, God says, "My Spirit shall not always strive with man" (Genesis 6:3). This flatly says that God may not always call.

Aaron Burr was the third vice-president of the United States. He was a brilliant student at Princeton University at age nineteen. A revival broke out on campus in those days, and Aaron was deeply convicted. He went to one of his teachers and told him his dilemma. The teacher gave him a Bible and told him to go back to his room and settle the matter with God on his knees. Aaron tried to shake off the conviction. He went back to his room all right, but in desperation he cried out, "God, if you let me alone, I'll promise to let you alone." And later Aaron said it was at that moment that all conviction left him. Years later, a good friend tried to introduce him to the Saviour, but the cold sweat poured out of his forehead as he recounted to his friend how at the age of nineteen he had asked God to let him alone. It was then that he said, "I never had one slight feeling ever since that I should become a child of God."

So many have the idea that they can get saved whenever they

get ready. But the fact is that you'll get saved when the Spirit of God draws, and if He has called you for the last time, you'll never get saved. The poet says, "There's a line that is drawn by rejecting the Lord, where the call of the Spirit is lost; as you hurry along with the pleasure-mad throng, have you counted, have you counted the cost?" To say "yes" to Jesus means life; to say "no" means death. God Almighty draws a deadline across every sinner's path. On one side there's hope; on the other side there's death! The Holy Spirit calls today, and if you trifle with the call of the Spirit, He may never strive with you again.

## 2. THE HEART CONSTANTLY GETS HARDER

The heart of every man and woman and boy and girl becomes more and more hardened every time he puts off the Gospel invitation. The Bible says, "Exhort one another daily, while it is called today, lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin" (Hebrews 3:13).

The hardening of the heart is one of the most terrible calamities that can come upon the lost sinner on this side of eternal destruction in Hell. One reason why the great majority of those who are saved have been saved in childhood and youth, is simply because the child has the advantage of a tender heart. The child has a tender conscience that grieves over sin. The child is easily moved by the fear of punishment. The child knows that it is dangerous to go on in sin. But one who continues in sin, and ignores the call of the Spirit of God, will find that his heart becomes calloused and hardened and accustomed to sin.

Every brazen infidel was once a tender-hearted child who may have trembled at the very thought of his sin, but delay over the years has hardened his heart. Every drunkard was once a pure and innocent child, likely beloved by his parents, and promising for the future. Every painted prostitute was once a sweet-faced little girl (precious and gentle), with holy possibilities, but now the passing days of unrebuked sin in her life have led to an indifference about holy matters.

Oh, the danger of a hardened heart! That innocent little child born into the world with bright eyes, happy smiles, and a sweet



disposition—gradually becomes hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. And each day he puts off the call of the Spirit, there is less and less concern for the things of God, and more and more concern for the things of the world—and the heart becomes more and more hardened. If you are reading this message, and you are past twenty years of age—your chances for getting saved are growing smaller indeed. Five-sixth of all decisions for Christ are made before twenty, and only about one out of a thousand becomes a child of God after reaching the age of thirty. It is not impossible to be saved in an old age, but it is unusual. God can save regardless of age. If you are a hardened sinner, a drunkard in the gutter, a prostitute, a church member who has gone back on God, a basically good person but uncommitted to Christ—remember that Jesus died for you and now He wants you to live for Him. There is a new life of joy awaiting you, but you have to give Jesus the consent of your will. The longer you wait to give your heart to Jesus, the more difficult the decision will become. The heart becomes a little more calloused every time you say “no” to Jesus.

### 3. THE GROWING NEARNESS OF CHRIST'S COMING

There is not a single event prophesied in the Bible which must come to pass before Jesus returns. Not another war needs to be declared. Not another sermon needs to be preached. Not another prophecy needs to be fulfilled. As far as can be told from the Scriptures, Jesus may come at any moment to catch up His Bride (the Church). It is true that many don't believe He is coming back, but the fact still remains that each passing day brings us one day closer to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The angels said at the time of His ascension, “This same Jesus who is taken up from you, shall so come again.”

There will be a resurrection when Christ returns. The bodies of those who sleep in Jesus, will rise from their graves and then those who are alive (in Christ) will be “caught up together with them” (1 Thessalonians 4:17). Those who are unsaved will be left behind here on earth when Jesus comes. They will go into a time of trouble and sorrow such as this world has never seen before nor will ever see again (Matthew 24:21). Only God knows the misery and the agony of those awful days. People will desire to die, but death will



flee from them. An unknown poet says:

When the great plants of our cities,  
Shall have turned out their last finished work  
And the merchants have sold their last order  
And dismissed every last tired clerk;  
When the banks have raked in their last dollar,  
And have paid out their last dividend;  
When the Judge of the earth says, "Closed for the night,"  
And calls for a balance—what then?

God's timetable is set. The hour is getting late. Your chances of ever getting saved are growing fainter with the benediction of every Gospel service. Jesus may return at any moment—and this is another urgent, pressing reason why you should not spend another day apart from simple faith in Jesus Christ.

#### 4. THE UNCERTAINTY OF LIFE/THE CERTAINTY OF DEATH

The Bible says, "Come now, ye that say today or tomorrow we will go into such a city and continue there a year, and buy and sell and get gain; whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow; for what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away" (James 4:13-14). It is silly for any person to say that he knows what will happen tomorrow. How do you know you'll get home safely on your next trip. One person dies every second and your turn may be coming very soon. The death-angel might well appear to you before this day is completed and say, "Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee."

Time flies by very rapidly. It seems but yesterday that I was a child, walking barefooted through the fields with the carefree abandon of childhood. Then came youth with its mingled joys, and then I suddenly crossed the bridge into adulthood, and the time seems to have gone so fast that I still often have trouble getting myself to believe that I've grown up and that I've become an adult. And the years seem to move with increasing speed as I plunge toward old age.

The Bible says, "As for man, his days are as grass, as a flower of the field;...the wind passeth over it, and it is gone" (Psalm 103:15).

Your life—which seems so well established and so important today—is really only like a fragile blade of grass. You may boast of your good health and your long years of sound life, but every one of us has an inescapable appointment with death. Your body, which today is active and energetic, will someday become cold and still. Your strength and your voice and your senses will be gone forever! Your physical frame will disintegrate and return to the dust of the earth! I beg you to set your house in order today so that you'll be prepared for that moment when you breathe your last mortal breath. There's no tomorrow-salvation with God. The Bible says, "Come now and let us reason together, saith the Lord; though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow" (Isaiah 1:18). God wants to reason with you about your salvation, and He wants to do it today—because tomorrow may be too late.

If you are not a child of God today, there is likely only one thing standing in your way. I don't know what it is. It may be intellectual pride, some selfish ambition, or some worldly pleasure. But whatever it is, you are right now at the place where the road parts. You are going to make a choice today. You will either choose for Jesus, or against Him. He stands ready to inscribe your name in the Book of Life if you'll only call on Him. Today you still have a chance. Don't throw it away. Won't you hear His voice, and turn to Him, and live eternally in His presence.

Note: Additional copies of this tract sent free on request. Ask for our sample packet of Bible Helps.

Bible Helps  
P.O. Box 391  
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## OBITUARY

### REBECCA MILLER

Sis. Rebecca "Becky" Louise Miller was born June 10, 1948, to Stanley Lester and Norma Susanna (Keller) Funk at Iowa Methodist Hospital, Des Moines, Iowa. She passed away of liver cancer at the age of 53 years, 8 months, and 27 days at her home in rural Quinter, Kansas on Saturday, March 9, 2002.

Becky was a 1967 graduate of Dallas Center (Iowa) High School and went on to pursue a career in nursing and graduated as a Licensed Practical Nurse in 1968. She was baptized August 17, 1968, into the Dunkard Brethren Church. She remained a faithful member of the Quinter Dunkard Brethren Church until her death.

On September 12, 1969, Becky was united in marriage to Wayne Cecil Miller at Dallas Center, Iowa. They made their home in rural Gove County Kansas for thirty-two years and six months. To this union were born two sons, Wesley Levi and Matthew Wayne.

Becky had health problems from early childhood. Throughout her life she was blessed with periods of radiant health. One of her joys, when she had any extra energy, was working in health care at Gove County Medical Center in Quinter. She worked there off and on for more than twenty-five years.

She is survived by her loving husband Wayne; sons Wesley and his wife Michele, and Matthew; grandchildren Taylor and Ashley all of Quinter, Kansas; her mother Norma Funk of Dallas Center, Iowa; four sisters, Mary Sue Moss, Laura Hawbaker, Eva Keller all of Dallas Center, Iowa and Janet Dietz of York, Pennsylvania; four brothers, Wayne Funk of Bradford, Ohio, Philip, Kevin, and Benjamin Funk all of rural Dallas Center, Iowa; and numerous nieces, nephews, friends, and neighbors. She was preceded in death by her father, Stanley Funk.

Becky will be lovingly remembered by her family and friends for many years to come.

#### FINALLY HOME

Just think of stepping on shore and finding it Heaven!  
Of touching a hand and finding it God's!  
Of breathing new air and finding it Celestial!  
Of waking up in Glory and finding it home!

-L. E. Singer

(Becky had this penned in the back of her Bible prior to her sickness)

Funeral Services were held March 12, 2002, at 10:00 A.M. in the Quinter Dunkard Brethren Church. Officiating ministers were



Elder Gordon Jamison, Brother Kevin Funk and Elder Herman Jamison. Brother Len Wertz officiated at the graveside. Burial was in the Quinter cemetery in Quinter, Kansas. The family would like to thank everyone for the outpouring of love, prayers and support that we have received through this difficult time we've been facing. It is such a blessing to belong to the family of God! May God bless each and every one of you. Please continue to uphold us in prayer.

In life we loved you dearly,  
In death we do the same.  
It broke our heart's to lose you,  
You did not go alone;  
For part of us went with you,  
The day God called you home.  
You left us peaceful memories,  
Your love is still our guide;  
And though we cannot see you,  
You are always at our side.  
Our family chain is broken  
And nothing seems the same,  
But as God calls us one by one...  
The chain will link again.

The Family

## **NEWS ITEMS**

### **HART, MICHIGAN**

The Lord willing, the Hart Congregation is looking forward to Revival Services, July 12 through July 21, 2002. Bro. Fred Pifer of Dallas Center, Iowa will be the evangelist. Lovefeast Service will begin Saturday 11:00 A.M. Examination service at 2:00 P.M. and Lovefeast at 7:00 P.M.

Everyone is welcome to attend and enjoy the fellowship. Come praying that souls may be touched and strengthened in these last days.

Sister Anna M. Powell, Cor.

### WANTED — OLD BIBLE MONITORS

I am wanting to complete my set of Bible Monitors since its original beginning.

Would anyone have the years 1922 through the year 1931, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1940 and 1941?

They would be much appreciated.

Mrs. Glen Frick  
13787 Winterstown Rd.  
Felton, PA 17322

### ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JUNE 2002

June 2 - A More Excellent Way - I Cor. 13:1-13

1. There are many things we do that appear very good, but what becomes the true test of love?
2. When we see Jesus face to face, and faith and hope are at an end, how will charity appear in it's perfected state?

June 9 - Prophecy and Tongues - I Cor. 14:1-19

1. Explain what it means to prophesy and how that can edify the church.
2. Explain what it means to speak in tongues, and is it useful for us today?

June 16 - FATHER'S DAY - Genesis 33

1. How is a father to view his children according to verse 5?
2. If a father trains his children well, how can they become a great blessing to others?

June 23 - Let All Things Be Done for Edification - I Cor. 14:20-40

1. If tongues are used in an assembly, what are the guidelines to ensure their usefulness?
2. What role do women play in the church?

June 30 - The Kerygma - I Cor. 15:1-11

1. What message must be at the core of all our preaching?
2. Was it important that all the apostles and many others saw Christ after the resurrection?

## **YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JUNE 2002**

June 2 - Soldiers - Eph. 6:13-18, I Thess. 5:4-11, II Tim. 2:1-4

1. What will happen if any piece of the armor is missing?
2. Why must we endure hardness as Christians?

June 9 - Our Principles - I Peter 2:1-25

1. If we as Christians are members of a chosen generation, why must we become as pilgrims and strangers, abstaining from many of the things others do?
2. How important is it to be subject to those in authority?

June 16 - FATHER'S DAY - Mark 9:14-27, Luke 8:41-42, 8:49-56

1. Is it possible for children growing up in a Christian home to become demon possessed? What should the father do?
2. We usually depend on modern medicine to treat illnesses, but would it be better for a father to lay hands on his children and pray to heal them?

June 23 - Consistency - Phil. 1:25-30, I Thess. 4:9-12, I Tim. 3:7, James 3:12-18, II Peter 3:11-14

1. How much does the world examine the fruit of our lives to see if it matches the words of our testimony?
2. How does a spirit of love, peace, gentleness, and mercy, become so convincing to the unbeliever?

June 30 - Liberty - I Cor. 8:1-13, Romans 14:1-13

1. Define what is liberty in Jesus Christ.
2. Have you ever felt that your liberty is being judged by another person's conscience? Is that person wrong?



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# BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXX

JUNE 2002

NO. 6

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

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OUR MOTTO: Scriptural in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,  
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

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## SON OF MY SOUL

How vain is all beneath the skies!  
How transient ev'ry earthly bliss!  
How slender all the fondest ties  
That bind us to a world like this!

The evening cloud, the morning dew,  
The with'ring grass, the fading flow'r,  
Of earthly hopes are emblems true,  
The glory of a passing hour.

But tho' earth's fairest blossoms die,  
And all beneath the skies is vain,  
There is a brighter world on high,  
Beyond the reach of care and pain.

Then let the hope of joys to come  
Dispel your cares, and chase our fears;  
If God be ours, we're trav'ling home,  
Tho' passing thro' a vale of tears.

-Unknown



## A PEOPLE OF INTEGRITY

Would Job's integrity survive as Satan's efforts against him intensified? God permitted Satan to inflict Job with boils from head to toe. As his suffering increased, would he retain his integrity? His first losses were material losses; his wealth was depleted as his animals were stolen or killed. The next wave of attack was one of sorrow as his children were taken from him. The last area of attack was his body. Satan had boasted that for personal health Job would give up his integrity. Satan expected Job to yield when his body was afflicted. Satan said that an individual would do anything to gain relief from suffering. Would Job meet this challenge?

One of Job's greatest challenges was his wife's suggestion. She saw his great suffering. She told him that he should curse God and die. This did not please Job. He would not turn from God, even though the circumstances of his life had changed so dramatically. He realized that his wife, in her sorrow for their family, and her anguish over the depth of his suffering, wanted to offer him the solace of death as an escape. Just as he had met the losses from Satan's first trial, so he met this harsher trial with the same determination.

Job's friends proved to be poor comforters. They could only see the outward circumstances. They were sure they could diagnose why he suffered. They were sure these circumstances came from some great sin that Job had committed. Job would not admit

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## THE BIBLE MONITOR

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to this. While he did not know what God had permitted Satan to do to him, he knew it was not the result of flagrant, continual sin. They continued to accuse him and he stoutly maintained his innocence. He would not yield his integrity. Neither Satan, nor his wife, nor his friends were able to dissuade Job from his faith and integrity.

During Israel's history, not all were men of integrity. The sons of Eli were the priests. The expectation is the priests would worship God and seek the well-being of those whom they serve. Eli's sons, Hophni and Phineas, were only interested in what they could gain for themselves. They were declared to be the sons of Baal, rather than the sons of God. When worshippers came to offer a sacrifice, instead of the priests offering the meat in accordance with the Law, they took what they wanted. The priests were to receive a certain part of the offered animal, certain parts were to be offered, and the rest returned to the worshipper. These priests took the best parts, which they boiled instead of burning. They were not men of integrity. They were seeking profit from their position.

These extremes in Israel point out the necessity of Christians being people of integrity. As the blood-bought children of God, our lives must be lived on a level above the world around us. We must be people of integrity. That integrity involves being faithful to God in the midst of a crooked and perverse world. It involves being truthful and honest in our dealings in a society that often values the bottom line above righteousness. We must be true, in our relationships. Whether it is a romantic relationship that leads to marriage or a friendship that needs constant care, there is a need for integrity.

Most of all, we need integrity in our Spiritual relationships. We need to realize we all are part of God's Family; therefore we need to deal with each other in an open and honest way. Although we may disagree, we need to divorce our disagreements from our seeking the best for each other. To encourage each other, we need to build up each other, rather than always seeking to punish or change another. We can not encourage that which is against God's Word, neither can we shut up our bowels of compassion for each other.

To be a people of integrity, we need to be sure that our view of Biblical teaching is the Bible's teaching and not just our interpretation of the Bible's teaching. We need to use methods of teaching and sharing that will convey the Word to others.

Our integrity demands a strict honesty in our dealing with others, whether in material, physical or Spiritual things. We must not measure ourselves with the world's level of honesty, for it takes little effort to meet that standard. We must measure ourselves by the standard of the Word of God.

We need to have integrity like Job. We do not want to be like the sons of Eli, who brought disrepute upon Israel. If we live only by their standards we will bring disrepute upon the Church. Our lives convey who we are, either a people of integrity or not.

Are you a person of integrity in all of your relationships and dealings?

M. Cook

## **ACTS 15**

(Please read Acts 15)

This chapter in Acts describes a conflict that arose within the early church. At the heart of the conflict was the basis of salvation. Was faith in Christ or adherence to the law going to be the basis by which one received salvation? Acts 15 also describes how the church reached a decision on this troubling issue.

As Brethren, we have recognized that there are issues that extend beyond our personal or congregational lives that need the discernment of the entire Brotherhood. This chapter is seen as the basis for our own annual conference and was also read at the beginning of the Fall 1999 Leadership Conference hosted by the Dallas Center Congregation. We usually look at this chapter primarily as the justification for these meetings. However, the focus of this article is to examine some of the issues that needed to be resolved, the intent behind the decisions, and how they may be applicable in our own day and age.



It may be difficult for us to comprehend some 1,950 years after the Jerusalem Council why this issue created such difficulty for the early church. This difficulty on our part is a testimony to and a vindication of the decisions reached by our spiritual forefathers. But for them the implications of their decision had a direct impact upon their conception of the church and subsequently their sense of identity. Was the church/Christianity a sect of the Jewish faith? Had Jesus come to perfect and purify the Law? Could someone become a follower of Christ without becoming a Jew first? Was the church dependent upon its Jewish heritage or independent of it? Those first believers who had known and followed Jesus had to struggle with what their identity in Christ really meant. Were they Jews who were Christians or Christians who happened to be Jews? Their conclusions directly impacted the faith they proclaimed both inside and beyond the borders of Israel.

Most of us are well acquainted with the first decision reached at the Jerusalem Council. The basis for salvation could not be circumcision and adherence to the Law. With Peter's impassioned speech leading the way they recognized the primacy of a faith in Christ that begins the process of transforming the heart and life of a believer. "And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us; And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith. Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they." Acts 15:8-11.

In verse 10 Peter makes it clear that any external symbol and subsequent adherence to a body of laws as the basis for salvation had already failed. In verse 11 Peter actually makes a startling statement. He turns the whole argument as to the necessity of the Gentiles being circumcised in order to be saved on its head. Rather, the only way they, as Jews, can be saved is in the same manner as the Gentiles.

What the Jerusalem Council established here is considered one of our major New Testament doctrines. God had been preparing them in a variety of ways to come to this understanding through a

combination of events. First was Peter's experience with the household of Cornelius and the giving of the Holy Spirit to them. This event alone established the precedent for such an understanding. But it was not until a number of years later with the turning of the Gentiles to faith in Christ through the preaching of Paul and Barnabas that the necessity for wrestling with this issue came to the forefront of the church's awareness. The Jerusalem Council simply confirmed what God had already established as the basis for salvation through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

But what about the other decisions made by the Jerusalem Council that James enumerates? "For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things; That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well." Acts 15:28-29. What was meant by these four requirements? Why did the church require them of the Gentiles?

We will deal with this list in the reverse order in which they are mentioned. Most Bible students are aware that the worship of idols often involved sexual activity. Some of the larger temples for worship to certain deities had thousands of prostitutes who worked in them. Sexual union with a temple prostitute was seen as a religious rite with no immorality associated with it. This was a normal part of their cultural and religious experience. It was important, therefore, to impress upon the minds of the Gentiles the Biblical understanding of sexual purity that allows for no sexual relations outside the marriage relationship. This theme is presented again and again throughout the pages of the New Testament.

Several verses of scripture may help us understand the next two items: abstaining from things strangled and from blood. "But flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat." Genesis 9:4. "And whatsoever man there be of the house of Israel, or of the strangers that sojourn among you, that eateth any manner of blood; I will even set my face against that soul that eateth blood, and will cut him off from among his people. For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul." Leviticus 17:10-11.



Both prohibitions are concerned with eating or drinking blood. Some animals were strangled and the carcasses not butchered for a time. The blood would pool in the meat of the animal making the meat more tender. Jews could not eat this meat because of the prohibition in Leviticus. Even worse for them was the drinking of blood, which was done in some of the pagan practices of the Gentile culture. Since blood represented life its only use was reserved for making sacrifices to God.

The intent of the Jerusalem Council on these two issues was not to set down a principle of Jewish belief that the Gentiles must now adhere to. Having just renounced reliance upon Jewish Law as the basis of a saving relationship with God through Jesus Christ they could not now turn around and use that law as the basis for these decisions. Rather, their purpose and intent was practical in nature. Such behavior on the part of the Gentile believers would be so offensive to the Jewish Christians that it would destroy their fellowship together in Christ. Such disunity within the body of Christ would make a mockery of their Christian witness to the world around them.

With this purpose in mind we are ready to look at the first prohibition named by the Jerusalem council which is meat sacrificed to idols. Clearly, idolatry is totally inconsistent with any profession of faith in Christ. But what about the meat sacrificed to idols and then sold in the meat markets? For many Jewish Christians such contamination was implied and any partaking of such meat would offend their conscience before God. Once again, rather than trying to label certain behavior as inherently sinful the Jerusalem Council was more concerned with the fellowship of Gentile and Jewish Christians and removing any possible offensive behavior that might tear apart their fellowship.

We deduce this from the fact that the issue is raised again on several occasions within the life of the church. At the time of the Jerusalem Council the church had expanded only into the areas of Asia Minor. With the continued missionary efforts of Paul and others the church grew into new areas of the Roman Empire. Consequently, Paul addresses the issue of meat sacrificed to idols in letters to the churches in Corinth and Rome.



Concerning the eating of meat sacrificed to idols he says, "I know, and am persuaded by the Lord Jesus, that there is nothing unclean of itself: but to him that esteemeth any thing to be unclean, to him it is unclean." Romans 14:14. "Whatsoever is sold in the shambles, that eat, asking no question for conscience sake: For the earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof." I Cor. 10:25-26. In reference to idols he says, "As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but one." I Cor. 8:4.

Paul is telling us that idols have no spiritual reality in themselves. Therefore, meat sacrificed to idols has not been contaminated spiritually and is to be received as the fruitfulness of God's blessing of the earth. For Paul, the principle at work in the issue of eating of meat sacrificed to idols is how the eating of such meat might negatively influence fellow believers in their relationship with Christ. "Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend." I Cor. 8:13.

In returning to the decisions of the Jerusalem Council we are contending that three of the four items that James mentioned are for the purpose of maintaining loving fellowship between believers who have convictions that differ from one another. If the Council was establishing rules of conduct that believers were always to conform to then Paul was guilty of both failing to uphold those standards for himself and not teaching others to do the same. On the other hand, if Paul correctly understood those decisions and the principles that governed them, then he was simply making the application of those principles in the context of the believers to whom he was ministering. Certainly Paul, who was present at the Jerusalem Council, was in a better position to understand the purpose of those decisions than are we.

So how do we make application of these decisions to our own circumstances? I think we can safely say that as a church we universally uphold the person and the work of Jesus Christ as the only way to merit our salvation. We, also, consistently uphold the expectation of a morally pure life that includes our sexual behavior as part of a normal Christian life. We, also, share a love for the church

and a desire to let our lives be lived in a united witness to the world around us. But we must be honest and admit that in this last application we sometimes have the most difficulty. As surely as we love the Lord we sometimes disagree as to how we ought to walk unitedly in faithfulness to the Lord we love.

There is plenty of scriptural evidence to suggest that differences of opinion are normative in the Christian experience. Most of the epistles are full of counsel dealing with a multitude of issues that threatened, and continue to threaten, the separation of believers. In most cases, issues are resolved in two ways. First in adherence to consistent Biblical teaching and authority. Second is adherence to spiritual attitudes that govern our relationships. Sacrificial love, modeled in the life of our Lord, is what we must all aspire for in our relationships with one another. Such love can help us choose to consider the welfare of our brother or sister in Christ over our own liberty that we may have in Christ.

But such love can also bring clarity to issues that divide us. There was much dispute at the Jerusalem Council. But it was not the desire to dispute that brought Paul and Barnabas to that meeting. Nor was it a desire to force others to his way of thinking that prompted Peter to speak out boldly. They labored for an understanding that has been a gift to the church ever since. The dispute actually helped clarify and crystallize an issue that was clouded with uncertainty. Instead of separating the church it actually strengthened the bond of Christ between those who had previously been separated by culture and experience. The Jerusalem Council serves as a model for how brethren can labor together in the midst of disputing and find the mind of Christ for the benefit of all.

Brother Phil Franklin

## IT IS FREE

Psalms 50:10, "For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills."

My Father is rich in houses and lands,

He holdeth the wealth of the world in His hands.



Of rubies and diamonds, of silver and gold,  
His coffers are full, He has riches untold.

A tent or a cottage, why should I care?  
They're building a palace for me over there!  
Tho' exiled from home, yet still I may sing:  
All glory to God. I'm the child of a King.

I'm the child of a King, The child of a King!  
With Jesus, my Savior, I'm, the child of a King.

The world is full of religions. Most require many things of a person, but in the end there is no promise of real peace, or a heaven filled with the Glory of God. Though many religions say that heaven lies at the end of their journey, what guarantee is there? How can a person know for sure if their "religion" is real? The "religions" of the world seek to attain, they search for truth, but truth is found in a person, Jesus Christ, and true religion is found in the relationship between ourselves and the Godhead which Christ established when He died and rose again for us.

It is like the man that traveled the world in search of wealth; he came home many years later, tired and old. One day, sitting in his back yard, he kicked a stone, and it glittered in the sun. Then it struck him, as he examined the stone and discovered that it was a diamond. All the years he searched, yet the wealth was right in his backyard. This writer grew up in the 1960's, when people questioned authority and were looking for real truth. Many traveled to the East and embraced Hinduism and Islam, yet many discovered that God was here all along. When Jesus was asked when the kingdom of God should come, He said, "...The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you." (Luke 17:20-21)

Again, it is like the merchant that Jesus spoke of in Matthew, chapter 13, that "...when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it." (Verse 46) We also think of the man that came to Jesus and asked, "...Good Master,



what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?" (Matthew 19:16) Jesus told him to keep the commandments. In verse 20, he told Jesus that he had kept them from his youth. Whether this was true or not, Jesus knew but he did not dispute it. Jesus said, "...If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me." (Verse 21) The young man "...went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions." The title of this article is, "It Is Free." In the scriptures, salvation is referred to as "the free gift." (Romans, chapter 5) It costs us nothing to receive it, yet often we may have to lay some things aside, things that will get in the way of our salvation. You must let go of one thing in order to take hold of another. The person who would answer by saying, "I have two hands," is missing the point. Just as a snowball, rolling down a hill, takes on size and weight, so do our sins if we do not lay them aside.

When it becomes a relationship it takes on new meaning. I John 3:1 says, "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God:..." The prodigal son saw his father in a different light when he came crawling back home to be welcomed with open arms. So, too, our sins will seem that much more evil to us when we realize how much they hurt our Father. Verse two says, "Beloved, now are we the sons of God,..." which means now, not "someday" in the future. Verse three says, "And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he (Jesus) is pure." We do not purify ourselves in order to satisfy an earthly creed, but a heavenly. Do we bring our wife home flowers in order to earn brownie points? No, we do it because we love and seek to please her, because we are one. Likewise Christ and the church are one. Ephesians 5:23 says, "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body."

So then, what was the purpose of Christ's death? I Peter 3:18 says, "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God,..." In Adam, all sin. In Christ, all are made alive. Ephesians 2:1 says, "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;" To be made alive, when as Adam's off-spring we were doomed to die, is the blessing of all blessings. To see when you were blind all your life; to walk

when you were lame all your life: the difference is staggering. To have a Heavenly Father who loved us enough to send His only begotten son to die for us, and then to reach down and call us, son: nothing in this life is more wonderful.

Brother Lynn H. Miller  
70 Round Barn Road  
Newmanstown, PA 17073-9162

### **THEY HAD NO COMFORTER**

"So I returned, and considered all the oppressions that are done under the sun: and behold the tears of such as were oppressed, and they had no comforter; and on the side of their oppressors there was power, but they had no comforter." Ecclesiastes 4:1.

"And I (Jesus) will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you." John 14:16-18.

"Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God." II Corinthians 1:3-4.

The writer of the book of Ecclesiastes, who was probably Solomon, though this is rejected by the majority of modern liberal theologians, has a very negative message to share. Ecclesiastes can be translated "the preacher." While we see very little virtue in preaching mostly "gloom and doom", there is wisdom in acknowledging the realities of life. The writer recognized the futility of life without a comforter.

There is much oppression in the world in which we live. Tyrannical governments oppress those they rule. The rich often oppress the poor. One race sometimes oppresses those of another race. The writer of Ecclesiastes saw the tears of those who were op-



pressed. We wish to evaluate what our reaction should be towards such as these. The sad conclusion that the writer came to was these had no comforter.

There is another type of oppression that we feel must be addressed. That is oppression felt by individuals who suffer loss or defeat. Unfortunately, many of these are also without a comforter. Does the Church have something to offer these individuals?

Jesus Christ has promised the redeemed another comforter that will abide with him forever. This was the Holy Spirit who He says will dwell with you, and shall be in you. This was fulfilled at Pentecost and is now a reality for true believers. Jesus Christ proclaims the Holy Spirit to be the Spirit of truth. Trying to soothe the troubled spirit by telling an individual that they do not have a problem is not using truth. Jesus also tells us that the world cannot receive this Spirit of truth. Many churches today are giving worldly answers to the problem of oppression. Their answer to tyrannical governments is liberation theology, aiding the oppressed in overthrowing such governments. We believe this is in complete opposition to the teachings of Jesus. Even many so called peace churches have adopted this teaching "without violence." These same churches believe in becoming involved in politics in order to take from the rich and give to the poor. They also see legislation as the answer to the oppression of one race over another. Jesus promises that He will not leave us comfortless but that He will come to us. This refers to the fact that the Holy Spirit is also the Spirit of Christ. But we believe it also speaks of that day when Jesus Christ shall return to make all things right.

We find that God the Father is also the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort. Therefore we have the promise of the comfort of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, Three in One and One in Three. These will comfort us in our tribulation. There is no promise that we will escape the oppression of those of this world. We are to offer comfort to others as God offers comfort to us.

The comfort that is offered is spiritual comfort. We are not to take part in a government that often uses one type of oppression to control another type of oppression. If a Christian is a business-



man he should be careful not to oppress his laborers. If a Christian is a laborer the Bible teaches to accept oppression and be content with what you have. A Christian should never harbor hatred towards or claim superiority over another race. But neither should they be a participant in marches or other demonstrations.

Praise God we do have something to offer those who have no comforter. We should encourage those suffering depression and other struggles. Prayer is a mighty aid. But we should also take the time to give them personal assurance. Church order is important but should never replace caring for others.

As the hymn writer F. Bottome writes,

"O spread the tidings round, Wherever man is found,  
Wherever human hearts and human woes abound;  
Let every Christian tongue Proclaim the joyful sound;  
The Comforter has come!"

Praise God! Hallelujah!

Brother James M. Hite  
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## **JEALOUSY DEVELOPS AT ANTIOCH OF PISIDIA**

Acts 13:26-52

This passage begins with the continuation of Paul's sermon in the synagogue at Antioch of Pisidia. Paul preached unto them Jesus, His death, and especially about the resurrection (verses 30,33,35). This bit about the resurrection of Jesus Christ obviously was quite hard for the Jews to swallow, and the Apostles seemed to emphasize it in their sermons. Belief in the resurrection of Jesus Christ is very essential to our salvation. Paul mentioned that many people saw Jesus for many days after He was raised up from the dead.

Paul also compared David and Jesus. David was a hero in the sight of the Jews. But David died, and his body decayed in the tomb. Jesus died, but His body did not see corruption; His body did not decay in the tomb.

Then Paul preached about the forgiveness of sins which is available through belief in Jesus Christ. This forgiveness from sins is something the Law of Moses could not do.

Paul closed his message with a warning that they should not let their hearts become hardened against the message of the resurrection of Jesus.

Many Jews and Jewish converts followed Paul and Barnabas to hear more. It is very interesting to note that the Gentiles invited Paul to preach to them. What interest would they have had in this Jewish religion? There was something in Paul's message that they wanted to hear.

So the next Sabbath day, just about everybody in the city turned out to hear the Word of God preached! What an occasion! Unfortunately, when the Jews saw the crowds that were come to hear Paul and Barnabas, they became full of envy and jealousy and began contradicting and blaspheming Paul and his message.

So Paul and Barnabas made a bold declaration against the Jews, and turned to preaching to the Gentiles. The Gentiles were delighted! Generally, with few exceptions, the Christian religion up till then had been pretty much confined to the Jews. Now, under this new religion, the Gentiles were welcome to receive the forgiveness of sins by the true God freely and unreservedly! And many believed.

In jealous reaction, the Jews stirred up some people, raised up a persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them out of the city.

**Summary Thought...**What is your reaction to Paul's sermon? Do you believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ? Do you feel the joy of the Holy Ghost when you are persecuted for preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

Respectfully Submitted,  
Brother Robert S. Lehigh

**BIBLE STORIES****JESUS AND THE CRAZY MAN**

Mark 5:1-20

After Jesus had calmed the storm on the sea of Galilee, He arrived at the land of the Gadarenes. Stepping ashore, Jesus was met by a man who was a lunatic or a crazy man. The Bible says this man had an unclean spirit. This means that instead of having the Holy Spirit to guide him, he was possessed with many evil spirits which caused him to lose his self-control. It is no wonder that his spirit was unclean! This crazy man lived among the tombs in a graveyard, and he was so strong that no one could tie him up. They had even tried to bind him with chains so that he wouldn't harm anyone, but he would break the chains. Day and night he wandered in the mountains and in the tombs, crying and cutting himself with stones. I don't suppose anyone could be in a worse condition.

Then came the day when he met Jesus. When the crazy man saw Jesus, he ran and worshipped Him and begged Jesus not to torment him. You see, this man was full of evil spirits, and they were trying to persuade Jesus to leave them alone. But Jesus said, "Come out of the man thou unclean spirit." Now the evil spirits knew they had to go, so they begged Jesus to let them enter a herd of pigs close by. Jesus said, "Go." And what do you think those pigs did? There were two thousand of them, and they all ran down a steep place to the sea and were drowned.

The men that were taking care of the pigs went to their town and said what happened, and the people came out and saw the man who had been crazy, sitting with Jesus and in his right mind.

Two thousand pigs are a lot of pigs, and the people were so concerned about losing them that they forgot about what a wonderful thing Jesus had done for the man who had been crazy. They asked Jesus to go away, and the man who had been healed asked Jesus if he could go along. Jesus got back in the boat and said, "Go home to your friends, and tell them how great things the Lord has done for you..."

And the man went back to his home town and told everyone what Jesus had done for him. Jesus can do anything!

Brother Rudy Cover



## THE BOY AND THE MAN

J. H. Moore

### Something Happened

But one day at recess something happened in school. I was just old enough to begin thinking about the girls. Then, being one of the leaders among the boys, I did not have a very humble opinion of myself. On showing a little attention to a girl, of whom I had formed a good opinion, I was in the presence of others deliberately humiliated. The cut was a keen one and it stung. I bit my lip and said not a word, but did a deal of hard thinking during the rest of the afternoon. I said to myself: "You belong to one of the best of families and I belong to one of the poorest, but the way is open for even a poor boy to give an account of himself, and from now on something will be doing." When school was dismissed I was the first boy out and headed for the community library, where a few hundred books were kept to be loaned to the patrons of the district.

That evening I returned home with several books under my arm, and of nights would read as late as my father would permit me to be out of bed. The first book read was the story of the famous exploration expedition of Clark and Lewis, 1803-1806, across the continent to the mouth of the Columbia River. My next was a graphic account of the adventures of Sir John Franklin in the Arctic regions, along with the story of the expeditions headed by Dr. Kane that went in search of the ill-fated party. These and other books concerning explorations in the Arctic regions aroused my interest to the utmost. I read everything I could get hold of on the subject and soon became familiar with what little was then known of the geography of the Frigid Zone. No line of study ever struck into me like this. It seems to have been ground into the very bones, and became so near a real part of me that all through life, regardless of other pressing duties, I have followed in my reading every expedition in search of the pole, down to the triumphant discovery made by Commander Peary. All of this clinched the reading habit, and paved the way for a further use of my big book which had been stored in the wagon when we drove away from our home in Missouri.

During the spring, summer and fall months I was kept busy in

the fields, plowing, cultivating, harvesting and gathering corn. It was in the cornfield of Elder David Wolf that the scene was laid, that nearly twenty-four years later gave rise to my article in the Gospel Messenger, entitled, "Farmer John on the Down Row." I was venturesome and was well able to get out of a tight place when I got into it, and sometimes trusted almost beyond wisdom. Here is an instance:

Word reached us that on a certain evening, after dark, a good aunt would reach the rail station, Coatsburg, nine miles to the north of us. Father told me to drive to the station with the two horses and big wagon and meet auntie. Fearing that the horses might become frightened at the train I tied up in a cluster of trees some distance from the depot. At nine the train stopped but no auntie made her appearance. I started for home. The night was as dark as they ever make them. I could not see the road—could not even see the horses. I simply gave the horses free reins and let them pick the way. The road was a dangerous one for night travel. At many points there were deep gullies at the side. Bridges without railings spanned the deep ravines. A little too far to the right or left at a score of places would have meant something serious. When about two miles from home I heard father's voice, coming from one side of the road, saying, "John, is that you?" It was near midnight when the last word of the story was told, and while the family was disappointed, still, considering the dangers attending the trip, they felt relieved. All is well that ends well.

### Some Experiences

When my parents located in Adams County I was the only young member in the congregation. All of my associates were outside of the church. Later my older sister, Margaret, applied for membership, and as per her request, was baptized by Elder George Wolf, who was then eighty-two years old. The venerable man in the water, administering the sacred rite to a young woman still in her teens, made the scene more than ordinarily impressive.

But as a preparation for my life's work I was to enter another course of training with different helps as well as different hindrances. My parents moved to another farm, this time fifteen miles from the church-house. No members lived near us. It was a good farming



section, and our rented farm was in the edge of the timber. Not since leaving the prairies of Illinois had I seen so many snakes as I ran up against on this farm, and it seemed to be the very center of the bumblebee kingdom. When plowing I carried a twisted gunny sack in my hand with which to fight the bumblebees every time the plow turned up a nest of them; first a fight in self-defense and then a war of extermination, so I might continue plowing.

Some of the denominations had preaching in the neighborhood about once a month. Once in two months we drove to the Brethren meetinghouse. The rest of the Sundays, being without religious services of any sort, were spent about as boys and young men would naturally spend the Lord's Day in communities of that type. Now and then I would walk three miles to attend a preaching service in the little town of Payson. The conditions afforded just about enough of the spiritual element to keep the fire upon the altar of the heart barely alive, and had it not been for the deep-rooted Christian sentiment in our home life, the fire might have dropped to mere embers. My faith was weak, very weak, but an invisible Hand led me along a dim path in the direction of a goal, of which I then knew nothing.

While I kept up my reading, I gave more or less attention to a certain type of athletics. These consisted of foot-racing, jumping contests and other feats. I would show off by turning a clear somersault. My best single jump was eighteen feet, and sometimes I would jump sixteen feet and then turn a somersault on the route. This was a rather dangerous feat for a country boy, and on one occasion, when not so successful in the attempted turn, I came to the ground square on my head. Then I said to myself, "What if I had broken my neck?" There were no baseball or football games, and what was a live boy to do but try to imitate some of the professional circus actors? Well, after thinking the matter over I decided to cut out the somersaults and keep my head up and my feet down where they belonged.

In the big harvest fields there came another line of training. Men and boys would bind grain from near sunup until sundown, never dreaming of such a thing as a ten or eight-hour day. Many a day have I bound grain while I was going barefoot. The stubbles



may have been rather severe on the feet, but the experience made them tough and saved the kind of leather of which boots and shoes are made.

### Walking the Log

My venturesome spirit had not left me. At times it led me into things that seemed almost rash. Our home was nearly a mile from the schoolhouse, with a deep ravine and a small creek between. Most of the year one could step across the creek, near the ford, but in case of a heavy rain the stream might become a raging torrent. One summer day, in the early part of the afternoon, the water came down almost in sheets for a full hour. As soon as the rain slackened a bit father and myself made our way to the creek, for the children, some of our own family, were at school on the other side. For the benefit of those wishing to cross when there was considerable water in the stream a large tree had been so cut that it fell across where the banks were high, forming a substantial foot log, reaching from bank to bank and fully ten feet from the bed of the creek. We found the water running over this log nearly an inch and still rising, and nearly a dozen frightened children on the other side. Divesting myself of everything save shirt and pants, I crossed over on the log, took one of the children on my back and brought it safe to our side. This was repeated until every child was rescued. Father, who was a good swimmer, stood on the bank ready to plunge into the raging torrent should anything happen. While not a thought of fear entered my mind during the performance of the reckless feat, I confess that when it was all over and I had time to think I felt just a little nervous.

The public school which I attended a few months during the winter cut a very small figure in my early life. There were a number of evening exhibitions and entertainments, with programs rendered by the scholars. This appealed to me. I committed poems and readings to memory—an easy task for me—and was always ready when my name was called. I had one of Patrick Henry's celebrated orations, as well as a speech by Blackhawk, the Indian chief, at my command, and in spite of my severe impediment in speech I would put as much uncultured oratorical spirit into my part of the programs as though I was the leading star of the whole entertainment. Just such experience as this took out of me what little embarrass-

ment I ever had when before the public.

In the latter part of one winter, when the whooping cough had kept me out of school until it was too late to start in with any of the classes, there came into the vicinity a writing master, who offered to give a course of twelve lessons in penmanship for one dollar. When the class was formed I was one of the number and was awarded the premium for the greatest improvement in writing. To help me out I wrote a very poor hand to begin with, and if ever a boy worked diligently to gain his point I did. I not only improved in my penmanship, but I got filled up with the spirit of writing and for months devoted every spare moment to my pen in writing and pen drawing. I rode as far as fifteen miles to take lessons from an accomplished penman. I purchased a book on penmanship and went to the limit of my little purse, and what my environments would afford, to master the art, and as a result I acquired a creditable hand. But like most men who enter into the activities of a business life, there came a time when I certainly did degenerate in my handwriting. But the training I got from buckling the mind right down to a given object, and holding it there for hours, was worth more to me in after life than it ever cost in time and money.

## THE COMMUNION SERVICE

B. E. Kessler

Of all the services connected with the Christian religion, there is none more important, or more sacred, or that means more to mankind than the communion service, by which we commemorate the greatest tragedy known to man and in which we celebrate the greatest blessing that ever came to the fallen race. By this service we memorialize the death of the Son of God and celebrate the event by which he purchased our redemption and reconciled the world to God.

Scriptural communion is the partaking of the emblems (the loaf and cup) of his body and blood in the evening, in connection with feet washing, and the Lord's supper, and is an institution distinct in itself, shown by blessing the emblems. "And as they were eating, Jesus took bread and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the



disciples, and said, take, eat, this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, drink ye all of it." (Matt. 26:26-27.) And by its commemorative nature, "And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, take, eat, this is my body, which is broken for you; this do, in remembrance of me; for as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till he come." (I Cor. 11:24-26.) It is also shown to be a distinct institution by its typical nature. "But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of the fruit of the vine, until that day I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." (Matt. 26:29; also Luke 22:18; Mark 14:25.) And by its emblematic nature. (Matt. 26:28; Luke 22:19.) These scriptures show us that the loaf and cup are emblems of his broken body and shed blood; and that in that service we commemorate his suffering and death; and that it is a type to be fulfilled in heaven, being a part of the marriage supper of the Lamb. (Rev. 19:7; Luke 12:36-37.)

No other institution is commemorative and emblematic as this. Thus it is distinct from all others.

The scripture also says the partaking of the loaf and cup is the communion of the body and blood of our Lord. Being the communion, it is not the Lord's supper. No inspired man ever called it the Lord's supper; and those who now call it the Lord's supper, do so without authority from the Bible, and those churches that call it the Lord's supper, have no Lord's supper at all. Hear Paul, "The cup of blessing, which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?" These questions clearly imply the answer, yes. So they are the communion and not the Lord's supper, as some teach.

"But our preacher says the bread and cup is the Lord's supper." Well, that's the difference between him and Paul. I'd believe Paul before my preacher or any one else's preacher. Wouldn't you? "Well, yes, I suppose I would, but if the bread and cup is not the Lord's supper, then we have no Lord's supper in our church." I know that, but our church does, and I would not want to be living in a church that has no Lord's supper when Jesus comes.

Paul says the bread and cup is the communion and he knows. So we don't need to be deceived here if we don't want to be.



Another matter of importance here is the bread and cup should be taken in the evening. Jesus instituted it in the evening. Just why, we need not know; but he must have had a reason for doing so. All we need to know or do, is to follow his example, and hold communion at night as he did.

When "Judas received the sop, he went immediately out, and it was night." (Jno. 13:30.) Paul received it from Christ by revelation, (Gal. 1:11-12) that it was night; (I Cor. 11:23) the church at Corinth observed it at night, and so did Paul at Troas, (Acts 20:7-11).

Here we have Paul and apostolic churches, some 30 years afterward, keeping it at night just as Jesus did. They got it from Jesus that way and no one ever got it from Jesus any other way. So we do not need to go wrong here if we don't want to. Jesus and Paul could have kept it in the day time, but they didn't. We too, could hold it in the day time, but we shouldn't.

Jesus and the apostles left the day and frequency to the option of the church. "I will drink no more of the fruit of the vine, until that day that I drink it new in the kingdom of God." (Mark 14:25.) No day set for us. "This do, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me; for as often as ye eat this bread and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till he come." (I Cor. 11:24-25.) No day set, but "as oft as ye drink it," is the Bible way.

Jesus instituted it on Wednesday evening, our time; Paul met with the church at Troas on the first day of the week, but broke the bread after midnight or on the second day of the week, which is Monday, our time.

It is not said what day the church at Corinth held it, but one thing is true, no inspired man ever held communion on the first day of the week so far as anybody now knows. Any day of the week, but only in the night, is the Bible time.

They "broke bread from house to house" on Pentecost but not on the first day, for that was taken up in worship, preaching and baptizing. (Acts 2:29, 38, 41.) Thus it is seen, no inspired man ever held communion on the first day of the week, or in the day time. But why restricted communion? It tends to unity in faith and practice. Jesus prayed for unity. (Jno. 17:21-22.) Paul labored for

unity. (Eph. 4:1-5; I Cor. 1:10.)

Different churches may sit down and eat together but there can be no communion where there is no union; and merely eating together does not destroy difference in doctrine and practice. Besides it is practically impossible, some meet for this service every first day; some at 11:00 a.m.; some at 8:00 p.m.; some wash feet in connection with it; some wash feet, and eat the Lord's supper and greet each other with the holy kiss in connection with it. How then could they commune together? Some one must be wrong here. If I sit down and take the bread and cup in a church that does not wash feet and has no Lord's supper, I say by this act, my church is wrong in washing feet and having a Lord's supper, and greeting with a kiss of charity. Or if one in such church sit with me, wash feet, eat of the supper, greet with the kiss, he is a hypocrite, or says by so doing his church is wrong in not doing these things. Any one can see the hypocrisy and inconsistency of such procedure.

"But our preacher says all God's children have a right to partake at the Lord's table." Truly so, but in the first place, does your preacher really have any table at all, much less a Lord's table? If no table at all, how can he have a Lord's table? Besides, did you ever know your preacher to go over and commune with any other church? There you are. Why preach what he himself doesn't practice? When open communionists practice among themselves what they preach, it will be in place for them to invite others to commune with them.

Reprinted from June 1, 1942 issue of the Bible Monitor

## OBITUARIES

### GLADYS BECK

Sis. Gladys Pearl Beck, daughter of Aaron and Rena (Stutzman) Beck was born June 30, 1911 near Ridgeville, Ohio, and departed this life, Wednesday night, March 27, 2002 at Fulton County Health Center, Wauseon, Ohio at the age of 90 years, 9 months, and 27 days.

She was admitted to the hospital on Monday prior to her death.

Gladys was a resident of Heartland Nursing Home, Wauseon, Ohio for about one year.

Sis. Gladys was a kind hearted and loving person. She never was very well, especially in her later years.

She was baptized into the Dunkard faith at an early age and was a faithful attender except in the last years.

She leaves to mourn her departure; a brother, Harold, also of Heartland, a sister, Ethel Whitmer of Quinter, Kansas (in Gove County Nursing Home) a sister, Leola of Wauseon, Ohio, nephews; Tom Jamison (Dorothy) of Hoxie, Kansas, Marlan Jamison (Shirley) of Quinter, Kansas, Richard Jamison of Cuba, New Mexico, Ronald Jamison of Espanola, New Mexico; nieces Dyann (Clair) Armstrong of Wauseon, Ohio, Ruthann (Richard) Dulaney of Wauseon, Ohio and Thelma (Harry) Bedford of Morenci, Michigan. Also sixteen great nieces and nephews and eighteen great-great nieces and nephews.

Gladys was preceded in death by her parents, Stepmother Bertha Beck, brother-in-law Victor Whitmer, sister Elma Jamison, brother-in-law Newton Jamison, sister Orpha Beck, and sister-in-law Rebecca Blosser Beck.

She will be sadly missed by all who knew her. Thanks to each and every one who helped in any way. May God bless you.

HARLEY RUSH

Brother Harley H. Rush, 85, formerly of Converse, Indiana died Thursday, May 2, 2002, at Dukes Memorial Hospital in Peru, Indiana.

He was the son of Clarence and Edith (Ratliff) Rush.

Harley was born on May 16, 1916. He married Iona Lantz on February 21, 1942, in Wabash County, Indiana. She died on December 25, 2001.

Surviving are a son, Dale (Sue) Rush of Peru, Indiana; two daughters, Margaret (Harliss) Birt of Wabash, Indiana and Clarice (Robert) Carpenter of Peru, Indiana; twelve grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. A sister, Ethel Senften, and a great-granddaughter are deceased.



Harley was a member of the Plevna Dunkard Brethren Church and had been a minister there for fifty years, retiring in 1996.

He was a Wabash County farmer and had worked at the Ford Meter Box Company, retiring in 1980.

Services were held, May 5, 2002, at 2:00 P.M. in the Plevna Dunkard Brethren Church. Officiating ministers were Elder Harley Flory and Elder Lloyd Lorenz. Burial was in the Kendall Cemetery.

The singing was by the grandchildren and the following two poems, written by two of the grandsons, were used at the service.

Harley always loved to sing. During his final days in the hospital, he was heard singing "Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior." This song was sung by the congregation at his funeral service.

#### GRANDPA'S LIFE

A man who lived his life for Christ  
Everyday he gave to God.  
He seemed to never falter,  
As he walked this earthly sod.  
A man who lived each day by faith  
He's an example to us all.  
He taught us to live for God,  
And to heed His every call.

A man who was always there,  
Whenever someone had a need.  
Telling others about Christ,  
Mending hearts and sowing seed.

A man who we'll never forget,  
For of God's work he did not tire.

He's gone to be with Grandma now,  
They're singing in Heaven's choir.  
Someday we'll reunite,  
In our home with God on high.  
Let the circle be unbroken,  
In Heaven by and by.

-Marlin Carpenter

### A STORY OF TRUE LOVE

Harley and Iona had a love,  
That I would like to share.  
They met at conference,  
And in two years became a permanent pair.

On February 21st,  
In Nineteen Forty Two,  
They had a simple wedding,  
And a simple honeymoon.

They didn't have much money,  
It was all they could afford.  
All that mattered was that they had,  
Each other and the Lord.

They shared their love,  
Hopes, dreams, and fears.  
They raised a family,  
And had many happy years.

She passed on a few months ago.  
He couldn't live without her,  
As most of us well know.

He prayed to the Lord that he could  
Be with her again up there,  
And a few days ago,  
God answered his prayer.

Over 60 years together,  
In a time when marriage doesn't last,  
They still have that love,  
Even though they have passed.

For in Heaven they are together  
For all eternity,  
Still in love with one another,  
And still watching over their family.

-Brian Carpenter

The family would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, visits, flowers and so forth given to Harley and the rest of the family at this time and through his years in the nursing home.

May God richly bless each and every one of you.

The Family

## NEWS ITEMS

### WAYNESBORO, PENNSYLVANIA

The Lord willing, the Waynesboro Congregation plans a revival meeting July 21 through 28 with Bro. Tom St. John as evangelist. Please uphold these meetings in prayer that the lost will be saved and we may be strengthened and encouraged in these troubled times. We extend a hearty invitation to all, to come worship with us.

Sister Janet Shaffer, Cor.

### GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI

The Grandview, Missouri Congregation will hold a revival meeting July 28 to August 4 with Bro. Len Wertz from Quinter, Kansas as our evangelist. We will conclude with a Lovefeast service on



Saturday, August 3. Services will begin at 11:00 A.M. on Saturday with the Lovefeast Service at 6:00 P.M. We welcome everyone to come and be with us. Please pray for these meetings that each one will be encouraged in the Lord and that souls will be saved.

Sister Jolene Andrews, Cor.

#### THANK YOU

We want to thank everyone for the cards and letters we received on our fiftieth wedding anniversary. We really appreciated them. May God bless each one for being our friend.

Brother John and Sister Ruth Cease

### **ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JULY 2002**

July 7 - How Important is the Resurrection - I Cor. 15:12-28

1. What would be the status of our faith and our sins if Christ had not risen from the dead?
2. Explain the phrase, Christ became "the first fruits of them that slept".

July 14 - Living to Die or Dying to Live? - I Cor. 15:29-41

1. How is resurrection from the dead possible?
2. Why must we die to self to be made spiritually alive?

July 21 - The Victory Over Death - I Cor. 15:42-58

1. Explain the differences between our natural bodies and our spiritual bodies.
2. How is it possible to have victory over death?

July 28 - Collecting for the Saints and Travel Plans - I Cor. 16:1-12

1. How does giving as the Lord hath prospered us compare to tithing?
2. Why did Paul say after stating his plans, "if the Lord permit"?

## **YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JULY 2002**

July 7 - Temperance - Isa. 5:11 & 5:22-24, Prov. 23:19-21, 23:29-32, Luke 21:34, Eph. 5:18-20

1. What does Isaiah mean by the words "strong drink"?
2. Why did Jesus say we should always be sober? What does that mean?

July 14 - High Minded - Luke 18:9-17, John 8:31-42

1. How can humbling ourselves actually exalt us?
2. How is it possible to be in bondage to ourselves?

July 21 - Bad Company - Ex. 23:1-2, Ps. 1:1-6, II Cor. 6:14-18, Eph. 5:11-17, I Cor. 15:33-34

1. Why should a believer not be yoked to an unbeliever? What does that mean?
2. What is the light we need to use to overcome the darkness of evil?

July 28 - Greediness - Prov. 1:10-19, Ex. 5:8-12, I Tim. 6:6-12, James 5:1-7

1. What are "the ways of everyone that is greedy of gain"?
2. How is it possible for a human being to be content?

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# BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXX

JULY 2002

NO. 7

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

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OUR MOTTO: Scriptural in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,  
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

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## CONTENTMENT

O Lord, how full of sweet content  
My years of pilgrimage are spent!  
Where'er I dwell, I dwell with thee,  
In heav'n, in earth, or on the sea.

To me remains nor place nor time;  
My country is in ev'ry clime;  
I can be calm and free from care  
On any shore, since God is there.

While place I seek, or place I shun,  
The soul finds happiness in none;  
But with my God to guide my way,  
'Tis equal joy to go or stay.

Could I be cast where thou art not,  
That were indeed a dreadful lot;  
But regions none remote I call,  
Secure of finding God in all.

-Jennie M. B. Guyon

## LIFESTYLE

Lifestyle consists of the ways that we organize and live our lives. All facets of our living will be affected by the choices we make concerning what our lifestyle will be. The vehicle we purchase, the clothes that we wear, the places where we go or do not go, our recreational activities and other areas of our lives will depend upon these choices.

Many times when those choices are before us, we do not recognize them for their seriousness. When we on the spur of the moment choose to do certain things, put on certain clothes or go certain places, we are defining our lifestyle. Because we do not always think ahead about the consequences of our acts, we often make wrong choices that in the future we wished we had not made. If our lifestyle is to be a Christian lifestyle, we have to make choices that reflect our Christian lifestyle.

Paul writes the Ephesians, "Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; and walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us as an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savour." Ephesians 5:1-2. This is the basis for our lifestyle. We are to be the followers of God in all areas of our lives. A terrific price has been paid to redeem us, as Christ became the sacrifice that met God's requirement for the covering of our sins. As the redeemed, we should adapt our lifestyle to reflect the price paid.

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## THE BIBLE MONITOR

## JULY 2002

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The Bible has given us some definition of our lifestyle. There are a number of things that we are told should not even be named among us. Activities such as fornication, uncleanness or covetousness should be so foreign to us that we would not even talk of them. The Bible has condemned certain behaviors for the Christian, so there is no question about whether or not we will engage in them. The Church has seen fit to also define our lifestyles by deciding that certain activities are not consistent with the Christian life. The Church can not legislate upon every choice that might come before us. There would not be enough paper to make enough rule books to cover every possible situation. Those choices not covered are left to us for our decision. There are many choices for us to make, since we daily define our lives before the world in which we live. What will those around us see? Will they see a lifestyle consistent with our profession?

As we meet the situations that define our lifestyles, by what principles are we going to choose? There are several standards to guide us when we are faced with these decisions.

**Stewardship.** God has blessed us with financial resources. He expects us to be good stewards of those provisions. Whether it is money or property or other resources that He shares with us, we must use those resources in the way that best promotes His interests. We must not waste those resources upon extravagant and gaudy things. His resources should be used for activities that honor Him.

**Witnessing.** How do our choices of lifestyle affect our witness to the lost? If we use our time, talent and resources for activities that promote only the bottom line, rather than spiritual values, what can those outside Christ, see in us that they might desire Christ? If we are so busy living the worldly lifestyle, with only a passing interest in spiritual things, what do we have to offer the lost? If our lives do not reflect the Christ, who bought us, how can we offer them a Saviour?

**Obedience.** Will our choices appropriately display our willingness to obey our Heavenly Father? Will our lifestyle be a mirror of His will for us or of the world around us? Will our choice of vehicles,

clothing and activities show us to be humble, meek and peaceful? Will our activities join us with those who are openly opposed to God and godliness? Will our activities be a waste of time, spiritually?

Unity. Our choice of lifestyle can either promote or detract from our unity with fellow believers. Will our choices threaten the group's unity? Will our choice to forego the accepted lifestyle for one of our own improvising make the Church stronger or weaker? Will others choose a lifestyle, because of us, that will weaken the entire group's witness?

There are many questions we need to ask ourselves as we consider our choices affecting our lifestyles. We are making decisions that not only affect ourselves and our efforts toward honoring God, but they also affect the efforts of others. We are our brother and sister's keeper. We have a responsibility to God. We have a responsibility to our fellow believers. We have a responsibility for ourselves.

What lifestyle are you choosing? Will it be the lifestyle that will meet the criteria of God?

M.C.Cook

## **VARIOUS REACTIONS TO THE GOSPEL MESSAGE**

Acts 14:1-28

As Paul and Barnabas continue on their missionary journey, we can see that there was quite a contrast in their reception by the people of the different cities where they visited. In Iconium, the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles to the point that there was a plot hatched to stone Paul and Barnabas. Somehow, they got wind of it, and fled (apparently before it actually happened, I think).

The missionaries fled to Lystra and Derbe, in the region of Lyconia, preaching the Gospel on the way. Then the healing of a crippled man took place. Note that Paul simply perceived that the man had faith to be healed. He told the man to stand up. The man stood up, leaped and walked! There was no magical formula, no "big deal"; but just simple faith in the power of Jesus Christ.

The people who witnessed that healing were ready to proclaim that Paul and Barnabas were gods! They nearly worshipped them, held back only by the passionate objections of Barnabas and Paul. They knew that God would allow only Himself to be worshipped. The people were barely held back from sacrificing offerings unto them.

But in the next few verses, we can see the fickleness of humankind. After certain Jews from Antioch and Iconium came and persuaded the people, they turned against Paul and Barnabas, and stoned Paul. This must have happened quite suddenly, because they apparently did not have time to flee.

Think for a few moments about the stoning of Paul. Most people died when they were stoned. Paul had witnessed the death of Stephen in this manner. So he knew from experience exactly what to expect when the stoning began. Nevertheless, God was not finished with Paul and he revived. I suspect he suffered from some very severe bruises, and was very stiff and sore for a while. Note that they did not flee the city that day, but rested overnight, and then they departed.

Thinking it was enough for a while, Paul and Barnabas returned through the cities to which they had ministered, stopping by and encouraging the saints in the churches they had organized. Note that they ordained leadership in every church, and prayed and fasted with them, and commended them to the Lord.

Finally, Paul and Barnabas returned to Antioch, from where they had been sent, and gave a report. There was much rejoicing at the working of God. Even today, there is rejoicing when missionaries report about the hand of God working in foreign lands. There is also rejoicing when we see God working on the home front!

**Summary Thought...** Rejoice in the work of the Lord! But serving God comes at a high price - "with much tribulation" (verse 22). However, continue in the faith—it will be worth it!!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Brother Robert S. Lehigh



## THOUGHTS ON CONFERENCE 2002

It was our first time attending the Annual Conference in Ohio, and we can say without reservation that we were blessed abundantly. We encountered a loving spirit and the messages we heard admonished us to holy living and compassion for the lost.

If there was a central theme that permeated the messages it was threefold: our responsibility to God, our responsibility to each other, and our responsibility to the lost. At least half of what we heard dealt with evangelizing others and going to the mission field. During the missionary message, which was given the closing evening of the conference, three young people answered God's call, and who knows how many more will be influenced to do so in the future? The Bible studies reflected how we as Christians should live in this world so that we, by our behavior, would be a light unto others. Even the business meeting, which often is described as tedious, was a great example of brethren working together in love with a common goal and desire.

Many times with hundreds of people living together in close quarters there are problems, and often they become quite unbearable. Yet we were so blessed and so in awe of the Spirit of God working in our midst that if any problems did exist, we were not aware of them.

This is not meant to inflate anyone's ego. If people do well, they should be commended. Everyone worked so hard to insure a good conference that it remains a good example of what God can do with men and women obedient to His Will. If applied to other things, like mission work or evangelism, what could we accomplish if we are of one accord and in the will of the Lord?

We want to thank the local brethren and sisters again for making our stay in Ohio so pleasant. Where we can only thank you, we know God will bless you.

Brother Lynn H. Miller  
70 Round Barn Rd.  
Newmanstown, PA 17073

## CHILDREN'S PAGE

### NICE ISN'T ENOUGH

Matthew 7:21

"Mother, Fred invited me to stay over the week-end at his house. Monday we can walk together to school as he lives just four blocks away," said Joe.

"Is he the new boy in your class, who just recently moved to our area?"

"Yes, he is the one. He is so nice! He is polite to the teacher and is so friendly to all of us in the class. He's fun to be with at recess, too, as he is good at any sport."

"You realize that your father and I would like to meet Fred and his parents before we encourage you to spend much time with him and his friends. We want you to have Christian friends to associate with."

"Did you invite him to come to church this Sunday?"

"Yes, I did, Mother, but he says his family never go to church except on special occasions like Easter or Christmas. He said that instead of wasting time going to church they spend Sunday as a 'fun' day. They go fishing a lot as his father is quite a fisherman. His brothers like to play card games and go partying with their friends."

"When your father comes home from work we will discuss it with him."

His mother had supper ready, but still his father had not come. "I wonder what is keeping him so late, tonight?" his mother wondered as she turned from watching out the window.

"Here he is now!" cried Joe as he ran down the walk to meet him.

"Why are you so late, tonight, Dad?" asked Joe. "Is something wrong?"

"I'm afraid there is, Son. We had to notify the police that someone stole one of the cars from the employee's parking lot!"

"How awful!" exclaimed Mother, "that something like that should

happen in our little town. Does anyone have any idea who did the stealing?"

"No, so far there is no clue."

The next morning when Joe came down for breakfast, he saw his parents talking seriously together. His dad told him the police had just notified his boss that they had found three suspects. The young men were taken into custody and will await trial. Two fellows are from that new family that recently moved into our area."

"Not Fred or his brother was it, Dad?"

"Yes, they were arrested early this morning."

"But, they were such nice friendly boys, and so well liked!" cried Joe.

"That may be, but you see they didn't have the parental guidance they needed. They didn't go to church to learn from God's Word. They were never taught the Ten Commandments. Do you think they knew about the commandment, 'Thou shalt not steal?'"

"Good friends should share the same standards. Suppose you had been invited to ride along with these young men. You might not have known that the car was stolen, but since you were with them, you would have been taken to the police station, too."

"It might be said that certain people are so pleasant to be around. Their life style must be alright because they are so nice, but never-the-less they don't obey God. We can't restrict God's law or we might say there are nice liars, nice adulterers, nice alcoholics, nice drug addicts, nice wife beaters, nice murderers."

"There are people who want a watered down religion. They don't want any rules or regulations. They say we should be friendly and nice. Just let everyone live as they choose. No standards are needed. They don't believe in the Sermon on The Mount, where Jesus said, 'Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of Heaven but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in Heaven.' (Matt. 7:21) Jesus also said, 'If ye love me keep my commandments.'" (John 14:15)

"Don't be drawn into a relationship, partnership, or friendship with any person who doesn't have Biblical standards. Christianity is more than being nice."

Nice isn't enough.



## THE HOLY KISS AS AN ORDINANCE

B. E. Kesler

1. It is scriptural for God's people to greet one another with a holy kiss.

2. It is given in the most forceful way of expressing a command or ordinance.

(a) It is a part of scripture. "Greet one another with a holy kiss." (Rom. 16:16.) "All scripture is given by inspiration, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect." (II Tim. 3:16-17.)

(b) Given by the wisdom of God. "The Father which sent me, gave me a commandment, what I should say and what I should speak; and I know that his commandment is life everlasting." (Jno. 12:49-50; Heb. 1:1-2.)

(c) Fearful consequences result from disobedience. "When the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ." (II Thess. 1:8-9.) "If any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life and out of the holy city and from the things written in this book." (Rev. 22:19.)

3. This ordinance is so important the Holy Spirit had it written to all the apostolic churches.

(a) To individual churches. "Salute one another with a holy kiss." (Rom. 16:16.) "Greet ye one another with a holy kiss." (I Cor. 16:20; II Cor. 13:12.) So important is this ordinance in Paul's estimation, he wrote to the church at Corinth twice.

(b) To all the churches, Paul wrote this command, "to the church of God at Corinth, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord." (I Cor. 1:1-2; 16:20.) Peter, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, Bithynia writes, "Greet one another with a kiss of charity." (I Peter 1:2; 5:14.) Paul's first letter to Thessalonians contains this command with in-

struction that it be "read to all the holy brethren." (I Thess. 5:26-27.)

An ordinance so important can not be rejected without peril to the soul. "How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation, which in the first began to be spoken by the Lord and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him?" Paul and Peter both heard him and both gave this command.

God gave the command to Jesus (Jno. 12:49-50.) Jesus gave it to Paul, (Gal. 1:11-12; I Cor. 14:37) and Paul gave it to all the churches, and the Holy Spirit enjoins it. (Jno. 14:26.) Nothing else needed but a will to obey.

4. It is called a holy kiss.

(a) There are two kinds of ordinances—Divine (Heb. 9:1); Carnal (Heb. 9:10.)

(b) A holy ordinance given to a holy people. (Rom. 16:16; I Pet. 2:9.) We keep it because the wisdom of God gave it. (Acts 1:2.) We may as well reject any other ordinance, God makes no distinction between his commands as relates to obedience.

5. It is a token of love—Christian affection.

(a) It is a kiss of love—charity. (I Peter 5:14.)

(b) From all the salutations in the world, God selected one, the dearest known to our race, as the proper form of Christian greeting—the kiss of love.

(c) This love demands an expression which can be most appropriately given in this Christian salutation.

6. A reciprocal service—"Greet one another." "Love one another, pray for one another, salute one another, wash one another's feet." All of which are commands.

7. We dare not substitute God's commands.

(a) Merely shaking hands, or the uplifted hand with the "Hello" greeting cannot be substituted for "Greet with a holy kiss."

(b) Blessings are promised on obedience, not on man's opinion or substitutes.

(c) Peter tried substitution (Jno. 13:9) and would have lost had

he not obeyed.

(d) Naaman was tempted to substitute (II Kings 5:11-12), but had to obey to get the blessing.

(e) Saul tried substitution (I Sam. 15:10-23) and lost his throne.

(f) Ananias and Sapphira tried to substitute a part of the price for the whole (Acts 5:1-10), all know their sad fate.

(g) A system of religion that substitutes a part of God's commands for the whole will not stand at the judgment. (Rev. 22:14-19.)

#### Confirmation

1. It was observed in apostolic churches.
2. Paul's first letter to any church (A.D. 57) contains this ordinance with his direction that it be read to all the churches. (I Thess. 5:26-27.)
3. Paul's letter to the Romans before he visited them contains this ordinance. (Rom. 16:16.)
4. It has never been annulled by divine authority.
5. Laws remain in force until annulled by their maker—the holy kiss is still in force.

*Reprinted from July 1, 1942 issue of Bible Monitor*

## BIBLE STORIES

### HEALING ON THE SABBATH DAY!

Luke 6:6-11

One time there was a man who had a withered hand. We don't know how it got that way but it must have been a great handicap to him. It was his right hand and it may have been hard for him to make a living. He could have been a beggar but the Bible doesn't say so. I think he must have been a good man because he was in the synagogue on the sabbath day to hear Jesus teach. A synagogue was a place where the Jews would meet to read scriptures, and Jesus would often teach there because that is where the people would be on the sabbath day — just like we go to church on Sunday.



Now there were some scribes and Pharisees in the synagogue too, and they weren't there because they were so good, but because they were watching Jesus to find some way they might accuse Him. They had become so mixed up that they thought it would be wrong to heal anyone on the sabbath day.

Jesus knew what they were thinking, just like He knows what we are thinking. He said to the man with the withered hand, "Rise up and stand forth in the midst." The man was probably ashamed of his crippled hand and now every eye was looking at him.

Jesus said unto the Pharisees, "Is it lawful on the sabbath days to do good, or to do evil? to save life or to destroy it?" And nobody answered Him a word.

Jesus, who is the Son of God, looked around at all the people and said to the man with the withered hand, "Stretch forth thy hand." Now what do you think happened? Did the man reach out his good hand? No, he did not! He reached out his poor old withered hand. But it wasn't withered anymore! It was healed and strong just like his good hand! I can just see that man moving his fingers again and clapping his hands and saying, "Praise the Lord! Oh, Jesus, how great thou art!"

But the Pharisees and scribes were filled with madness and talked to one another how they might punish Jesus.

Brother Rudy Cover

## PRAY FOR US

II Thessalonians 3:1-2, "Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you. And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith."

May God richly bless His Word to our hearts. The above scripture is largely self-explanatory, but it was written by an elder to those of his flock. Those of us called into ministry can hope that the brethren, (all the church) will pray that this Word will be freely preached, but it does not just apply to a few, but to all of us called to be saints, that others will see, hear, and believe.

If the saints earnestly pray and seek the face of God for the Sunday worship service, that the Word of God would be freely preached and taught, we would see great things. We should not complain if there is a preacher we do not like. We should pray for him that he would be free to preach as God intended. The Church needs every member: none are insignificant. John Donne, an English poet alive when the King James Bible was being translated, said the following: "No man is an island, entirely of himself. Every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main. If a clod (of dirt) be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as if a manner of thy friends or if thine own were. Any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved with mankind, and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls, it tolls for thee."

Clashes of personalities, power trips, caucusing, sowing discord, cliques and schisms all should not be mentioned in the church. I Thessalonians 5:17 says, "Pray without ceasing." Verse 25 says, "Brethren, pray for us." I Corinthians 12:14 says, "For the body is not one member, but many," and verse 26, "And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honored, all the members rejoice with it." We perhaps can understand the suffering part better than the rejoicing part, because man's nature is to covet the things (or talents) of others. If a brother has a talent, or a following, it is easy to become jealous of him. Rather we should rejoice with him and share in his joy.

"And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith." Anyone that witnesses for the Lord will run into those who do not have faith. If this person can get an advantage over us because they despise our stand for Christ, they probably will try. Mark 13:9 says, "But take heed to yourselves: for they shall deliver you up to councils; and in the synagogues ye shall be beaten: and ye shall be brought before rulers and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them." On the one hand, it is our purpose to witness to those in authority. When Paul appealed to Caesar, he did so to share Christ with the rulers, but in doing so he sealed his own fate. On the other hand, Matthew 7:6 tells us, "Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet,

and turn again and rend you." There are those given to mocking and ridiculing the Word of God. Though we must take a stand, we need not belabor the point to those who would make a laughing-stock of us.

Pray for us, then, saints of God. We earnestly covet your prayers: that God's Word would be effective, that it would touch those it is intended to touch, and that unreasonable people would not have the advantage over us, but rather, that they would be saved.

Brother Lynn H. Miller  
70 Round Barn Road  
Newmanstown, PA 17073-9162

## THE TWO SONS

"But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work today in my vineyard. He answered and said, I will not; but afterward he repented, and went. And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go sir; and went not. Whether of them twain did the will of his father? They say unto him, The first. Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you." Matthew 21:28-31.

We find this parable of Jesus to be quite interesting while containing a powerful lesson. We find a three-fold application: a historical teaching, a warning to earthly churches and an important lesson for individuals.

First of all, we should look at whom the parable was addressed to. Earlier in the chapter we are told that it was given to the chief priests and scribes. These were the "conservative" Jewish leaders at the time that Christ walked the Earth. We might have expected this parable to be addressed to the Sadducees, the "liberal" Jews of that day.

The first son, as we understand it, refers to the Gentiles. Contrary to the teaching of theistic evolution mankind originally was aware of the One True God. Their refusal to continue to worship Him led them into the worship of many gods. We believe Jesus is



speaking of the time when many of the Gentiles would accept Him as their Lord. In fact, there is indication in Scripture that a few Gentiles may have done so during Christ's earthly ministry. The second son, according to our understanding, refers to the "conservative" Jews who claimed to be following the True God. They followed many man-made rituals to accomplish this but refused God's gift of grace through the Lord Jesus Christ. It is important to recognize that though the Jews were God's chosen people (predestination) they still had the free will to reject this offer.

We would now like to think of how this parable applies to modern day "conservative" churches. The first son could be applied to "liberal" churches who see the error of their way and repent. But what about the second son? You will notice that the second son was very polite. He addressed his father as "sir." Likewise outwardly conservative churches appear to have a great deal of respect for God and His Holy Word. They sing, "I'll go where you want me to go, dear Lord, I'll do what you want me to do." And they say that they mean every word of it. However, many of these find excuses for not practicing such things as the prayer veil for women along with the uncut hair that is to accompany this practice. The male members along with their female counterparts follow the fashions of this world and call it humble living. While the tie was popular for many years, casual dress has replaced it in many congregations to a large extent. Will this keep them out of the kingdom of God? We do not feel free to make that judgment. But the wrong attitude that often accompanies such actions **can lead to outright rebellion**. This will result in leading individuals away from the kingdom of God.

This leads into our final thought. Individuals can be a part of a conservative group, even one that attempts to follow all the Word of God, and still not be a part of the kingdom of God (saved). They can be like the first son and refuse to follow the guidelines of the church but later repent and willingly do so. More important, they may be attempting to get to Heaven by their own good works and realize their error and repent. Or they may be like the second son and say "amen" to church rules and regulations while ignoring them. Much more important, they may be making excuses for not following explicit teachings in the Word of God and deny the need to do

so after affirming their belief that Jesus Christ is Lord and the Bible is the Word of God.

May we each examine our heart to see if we are like the first or the second son. Have we truly repented of our human carnal nature? Do we truly acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord of our lives or merely give it mental assent? Remember if you happen to be a "publican" (despised tax collector that lies and cheats) or a "harlot" (natural or spiritual) the door of mercy is open to you. The blood of Jesus Christ can cleanse you from all sins. The Bible teaches you should repent and be baptized if you have not done so.

Brother James M. Hite  
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Palmyra, PA 17078-2704

## THE SEARCH FOR HAPPINESS

Harold S. Martin

The Book of Ecclesiastes (in the Bible) gives King Solomon's experiences when trying to find happiness "under the sun." The phrase "under the sun" simply means that Solomon was trying to find happiness here on earth, under the sun, apart from God. We want to look at some of the things that Solomon tried, and found inadequate, in his pursuit of happiness.

### 1. SOLOMON TRIED LUXURY

Solomon first surmised that the material things of life would fill the vacuum in his soul. Thus he gave himself to the purchase of possessions, hoping to satisfy the hunger in his heart. He filled his coffers and made his barns bulge. His wealth was immense; his palace was magnificent; his household was huge. If he wanted to build something, he built it. If he wanted to do anything, he did it. Read Ecclesiastes 2:4-11. If any man could have found permanent pleasure in material things, King Solomon should have been that man.

Did all this material wealth make Solomon happy? Did it fill the aching emptiness of his heart? Listen to his own words in Ecclesiastes 2:11, "Then I looked on all the works that my hands

had wrought, and behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit." Happiness cannot be found in luxuries and material things.

## 2. SOLOMON TRIED LEARNING

When King Solomon discovered that material prosperity does not give peace of mind, he turned to another pursuit. He gave himself to the acquiring of knowledge, hoping by this to stifle the monotony that haunted his earthly life. Read Ecclesiastes 1:17-18.

Solomon became a prolific student. A careful study of the book of Proverbs reveals the comprehensive reach of this man's mind. He knew the natural environment of the beast of the field; he understood the nature of the flight of the bird in the air; he knew the customs of the fish in the sea. Solomon burned the midnight oil. He drank deeply from the well of knowledge—but even this never brought peace and happiness. A formal academic education is useful and is required as a preparation for many jobs in life, but the training of the mind does not insure peace in the heart. And so in the search for happiness, we find that learning is not the answer.

## 3. SOLOMON TRIED LIQUOR

After discovering that luxury and learning would not satisfy the deeper needs of the soul, Solomon turned to drinking. He thought perhaps that in wine, he could find the answer to the problems of life. Read Ecclesiastes 2:3 in the Bible. Being a man of wealth, Solomon ordered the best beverages that the times could produce—but he soon discovered (like many others since his day) that "Wine is a mocker, and strong drink is raging, and whosoever is deceived thereby, is not wise."

Liquor never brings permanent satisfaction. One who is under the influence of alcohol (for a short while) is transported out of the land of hard reality into the land of make-believe—and there for a while he can laugh at his problems—but when the drug wears off, he is right back where he started. Drinking is not the way to try to solve life's problems.

## 4. SOLOMON TRIED LUST

Solomon found no solution to his monotony in luxury and liquor



and learning, and so he turned to lust. He married 700 women and had 300 concubines (see I Kings 11:1-3). If anyone seems to be envious of Solomon and his 700 wives, keep in mind that this meant 700 birthdays to remember, and certainly lots of "in-law" problems. No wonder Solomon concludes in Ecclesiastes 7:26, "And I find more bitter than death, the woman whose heart is snares and nets, and whose hands are fetters." And so we see that lust toward many strange women did not satisfy the emptiness of Solomon's heart.

Some people seem to think that finding a new married partner will bring happiness in life, but in most cases the new marital arrangement is less than ideal. Others seek experiences with a variety of sexual partners—but the guilt, and the danger of contacting AIDS, and the displeasure such conduct brings to God—can never lead to happiness.

#### 5. SOLOMON TURNED TO THE LORD

The message of the Bible is that apart from God life is full of weariness and disappointment. King Solomon was gifted with a keen intellect; he was versed in the affairs of human life; he was fed with every dainty this earth could produce. But still he was a stranger to the sweet peace which every human heart craves. There is nothing under the sun that can permanently satisfy the thirsty heart. Solomon found that life with all its experiences, is but emptiness and a striving after the wind—if it is lived apart from God.

But Solomon did not let the matter rest with seeking happiness in luxury and learning and the other earthly pursuits. He turned to the Lord. He says, "I know that it will be well with those that fear God" (Ecclesiastes 8:12). It is vain to seek happiness under the sun. Instead, we should fear God, and remember our Creator and serve Him, because He is going to bring every work into judgment. We are told in the Bible that God loves each individual human being, and that He sent Jesus to die in our place so that we might be free from the penalty for sin, and have everlasting life (John 3:16). Jesus stands ready to come into our lives if we are willing to open the door of our hearts to Him (Revelation 3:20). Why not give your heart to Jesus today? He says that those who come to Him will not be cast out (John 6:37).

Note: additional copies of this tract sent free on request. Ask for our sample packet of Bible Helps.

Bible Helps  
P.O. Box 391  
Hanover, PA 17331

### IN TIMES LIKE THESE

We read the headlines daily  
and listen to the news,  
We shake our heads despairingly  
and glumly sing the blues,  
We are restless and dissatisfied  
and we do not feel secure,  
We are vaguely discontented  
with the things we must endure...  
This violent age we live in  
is filled with nameless fears  
As we listen to the newscasts  
that come daily to our ears,  
And we view the threatening future  
with sad sobriety  
As we're surrounded daily  
by increased anxiety...  
How can we find security  
or stand on solid ground  
When there's violence and dissension  
and confusion all around;  
Where can we go for refuge  
from the rising tides of hate,  
Where can we find a haven  
to escape this shameful fate...

So instead of reading headlines  
that disturb the heart and mind,  
Let us open up the Bible  
and in doing so we'll find  
That this age is no different  
from the millions gone before,  
But in every hour of crisis  
God has opened up a door  
For all who seek His guidance  
and trust His all-wise plan,  
For God provides protection  
beyond that devised by man...  
And we learn that each tomorrow  
is not ours to understand,  
But lies safely in the keeping  
of the great Creator's Hand,  
And to have the steadfast knowledge  
that we never walk alone  
And to rest in the assurance  
that our every need is known  
Will help dispel our worries,  
our anxieties and care,  
For doubt and fear are vanquished  
in the peacefulness of prayer.  
-Selected by Sister Marie Sines

### **THE BOY AND THE MAN**

The Copper Kettle

J. H. Moore

It was while living in this community that the copper kettle incident occurred, of which mention has been made in my book, "Our



Saturday Night." The story may be worth telling here: In our orchard we had a lot of Rambo apples, which my parents wished to convert into apple butter, but after inquiry could learn of no copper kettle. At a meeting one Sunday in our schoolhouse, where Elder David Wolf preached, a neighbor told my father of a Pennsylvanian, living some distance away, who had a copper kettle. Early Monday morning with the two horses and big wagon I was started out in quest of that kettle. Finally I drove up to the well-improved little farm, that had been pointed out as the place where the man of Pennsylvania lived. Walking into the neatly-kept yard, I met a pleasant-looking gentleman, and asked if his name was Mr. \_\_\_\_\_. On answering me in the affirmative, I informed him of the purpose of my call, telling where I lived, promising to take good care of the kettle, and stating I would pay him for the use of it. He replied by saying that he had a large copper kettle, but would neither lend it nor hire it out. Feeling the disappointment keenly, I apologized as best I could for troubling him, at the same time telling him that while at the meeting the day before my father had been told that he had such a kettle, and that is the way we happened to know about it. He asked me where we attended meeting. I told him. Then he asked who preached. "Elder David Wolf," I replied. "To what church does he belong?" he eagerly inquired. "The Dunkard church," I responded. "Is your father a member of the Dunkard church?" he asked. I told him he was. "All right," says he, "he can have the kettle and is perfectly welcome to it. I used to know these people back in Pennsylvania where I came from, and they were honest and would take good care of things." I was soon on my way home with the kettle and had a most interesting story to tell my parents. Several days later the kettle was returned, in prime condition, along with a good sample of the apple butter we had made.

The incident did all of us a lot of good. We felt proud of the reputation of the church of which we were the only members for miles around. All through life the thought of church members having the reputation of being honest, and doing the fair thing by others, has never left me.

### The Educated Family

While still living near Payson I was a live wire among the young people of the community. I was busy at work six days out of the

week, and like others of my age, was here and there on Sunday. We always walked to the points we wished to reach. There was no thought of riding. With the young men I got along nicely. There was some quarreling, and even fighting, in the community, but I never got into a quarrel or a fight. I preferred diplomacy in place of physical contests. It was the better method, and enabled the fellow who kept cool to get things about as he wanted them in the end.

In the way of company and culture I met up with a condition that proved helpful to me all through my young manhood. There lived in the community a well-educated family, consisting of father, mother, four grown daughters and two younger children. In her earlier days the mother had been favored with considerable experience as a teacher in graded schools, while the father rather boasted of his knowledge of grammar and polished English. The four girls were well educated, though I never knew one of them to attend their district school. Under the careful guidance of their mother they were taught at home, and when old enough were sent to high school. When properly prepared for the work they usually taught during the winter months and attended select schools in the summer. They were sensible, ladylike, intelligent, interesting and possessed a high type of womanhood. I got into the good graces of these girls, and spend many a Sunday hour with them, sometimes with one, and then with another. Our being together was not a matter of courtship, but friendship. Being thus much with girls of culture, education, and a high type of ideal womanhood, gave to me a training which, at this time of my life, was of more value to me, as a young man, than wealth. The whole experience was an incentive leading up to the higher ideals of life. Their training for the better class of society, their association with this class of people when in town, or away at school, along with their familiarity with good literature, proved an inspiration to me. Our friendship continued as long as we remained in this part of the State, and now as I look back over life I am wondering how I would have fared had it not been for the elevating and purifying influence that came to me by associating with these girls.

#### Learning to Paint

But while enjoying these associations there came into my experience what was to prove the stepping-stone leading up to my



real mission in life. In addition to being a farmer and a carpenter my father was also a good house painter, grainer and paper hanger. When time from his farm work would permit he painted houses and barns for the farmers. When I was a little past sixteen years of age he decided to take me with him and teach me to paint. I was delighted with the idea, and took to painting like a duck to water. I soon got on to handling the brush, laying on the paint properly, and with spliced ladders could easily climb to the highest part of any farm building. It was not long until I was mixing colors and doing some of the graining in the less-used rooms of houses. I buckled down to the study of painting, and especially graining, as enthusiastically as I had studied penmanship. In fact, part of the time I carried on both studies at once. Now and then, having an opportunity to go to Quincy, a distance of eighteen miles, I would walk the streets by the hour, studying the fine samples of graining displayed on the front doors. Into buildings that I was permitted to enter I went for no other purpose than to examine the graining of the best of painters, and then spent hours, sketching on paper the type of work done. The outcome of all this was that in less than one year I was doing all of the oak graining for my father.

This occasionally involved me in some amusing "scrapes," as Lincoln one time said of what he got into by being elected president. We had a fine house to paint for a well-to-do farmer, who took pride in having things done up-to-date. Graining was all the go then for the best rooms, and so he wanted the best going. Father sent me ahead to prime the house and get the more important inside rooms ready for graining, it being father's part to grain the mahogany and maple while I would do the oak. It was all right with the old farmer as long as I had work enough on the outside of the house to keep me busy, but when he saw me at work on what were to be the best finished rooms in the house he grew nervous, and every day or two he would ask when the "old gentleman" was coming. He even suggested that I work on some of the other rooms until the arrival of father. In due time father came, and the old farmer took him to one side and tried to impress on his mind the necessity of giving the special work his personal attention. Father smiled a little and then told the farmer how we worked matters of that sort.



## OBITUARY

### VIRGIL A. LEATHERMAN

Brother Virgil Arlington Leatherman was born January 12, 1917, to Minor and Mary (Hardy) Leatherman, in Antioch, West Virginia. He departed this life on April 20, 2002, at the age of 85 years, 3 months, and 8 days, at the Brethren Home, where he had been residing about eighteen months.

He spent his early years farming in West Virginia. He was baptized at an early age, into the Ridge Congregation of the Dunkard Brethren Church. He was united in marriage to Sister Ethel Blanche O'Brien on April 26, 1939. They would have been married 63 years.

In 1940, he and Sister Ethel moved to Mt. Airy, Maryland, where he worked on his uncle's farm. At this time, he transferred his membership to the Walnut Grove Congregation. He was elected into the ministry on December 12, 1969, and was ordained an elder February 23, 1985. He remained a faithful member there until his death.

They moved to the Littlestown area, where he was employed with Aristokraft Cabinetry for thirty-eight years until his retirement in 1979. His expertise in wood was well known.

He is survived by his living wife, Ethel, sons, Douglas, and his wife, Nadine, of Aurora, Illinois, Dwight, and his wife, Charlene, of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, and daughter, Shirley, and her husband, Fred Miller, of Aspers, Pennsylvania; seven grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. Two brothers, Ralph C. Leatherman of Frederick, Maryland, and Charles E. Leatherman, of Wauseon, Ohio, and a sister, Myra Rodetruck of Winchester, Virginia. He was pre-deceased by a brother Garland, and a sister Irene Harris.

Funeral services were held April 23, 2002, at Little's Funeral Home in Littlestown, Pennsylvania. Officiating ministers were Elders Frank E. Shaffer and Paul Nell. Entombment was in Oakland Memorial Gardens in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

The family would like to thank everyone for their prayers, acts of kindness, the beautiful flowers and support during this difficult time. Virgil will be remembered by his family and friends for many years to come.

## SAFELY HOME

I am home in Heaven, dear ones,  
Oh, so happy and so bright!  
There is perfect joy and beauty  
In this everlasting light.

All the pain and grief is over,  
Every restless tossing passed;  
I am now at peace forever,  
Safely home in Heaven at last.

Did you wonder I so calmly  
Trode the valley of the shade?  
Oh! but Jesus' love illumined  
Every dark and fearful glade.

And He came Himself to meet me  
In that way so hard to tread;  
And with Jesus' arm to lean on,  
Could I have one doubt or dread?

Then you must not grieve so sorely,  
For I love you dearly still;  
Try to look beyond earth's shadows,  
Pray to trust our Father's Will.

There is work still waiting for you,  
So you must not idly stand;  
Do it now, while life remaineth—  
You shall rest in Jesus' land.

When that work is all completed,  
He will gently call you Home;  
Oh, the rapture of that meeting,  
Oh, the joy to see you come!

## **BIBLE STUDENTS NEEDED**

Readers of the Bible Monitor are well versed in the Word of God. They are excellent students of the Bible. They participate in Bible Studies on Sunday morning and Wednesday evenings all year long. From these studies they have gained many insights and much Biblical knowledge. While this private fund of information is very beneficial to themselves and perhaps a few others whom they meet with regularly, there are many more people who could enjoy their Biblical legacy.

Please consider sharing some of your thoughts from your Bible studies with the readers of the Bible Monitor. You would be helping others as they also study His Word and you will be providing worthwhile material for the Bible Monitor. Your shared thoughts might be a paragraph or they might be article length. Whatever the size, please share with others who are also interested in knowing more about God's Word. Send a shared thought weekly, monthly or whenever, but do provide others with the fruit of your studies.

The Editor will be looking forward to receiving your piece, long or short, and so will our readers. Thank you for sharing as we together travel the road toward Heaven. May God bless each in your study of His Word.

The Editor

## **NEWS ITEMS**

### **NOTICE**

The 2002 General Conference tapes are now available. There are a total of ten tapes. Cost of a complete set is \$15.00 pp. Individual tapes are \$2.00 each pp. Please send your order to Paul Stump, 10340 Diamond Mill Rd., Englewood, OH 45322, Telephone (937)836-6559, e-mail [pstumpl@mics.net](mailto:pstumpl@mics.net)

### **MECHANICSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA**

Revival Meetings to be held at Mohler's Congregation,



Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, July 14 through 21, 2002. Brother Jim Meyers, Dallas Center, Iowa, will be the evangelist. Please pray for these meetings. All are welcome for a season of fellowship and worship.

On May 19, 2002, we had a baptism. Nathan Aldinger was added to the church. We rejoice in this and request you prayers that others may see their need of salvation and come forward in obedience to our Lord.

Sister Ruth N. Miller, Cor.

#### QUINTER, KANSAS

The Quinter Congregation is prayerfully anticipating our revival to begin, Sunday, July 14 with Bro. Phil Gish as our evangelist. The meetings will close with Lovefeast on, Saturday, July 20, continuing services into, Sunday, July 21. We invite you to join us for this time of revival and renewal.

Sister Ruth Clark, Cor.

#### PLEASANT HOME, CALIFORNIA

The Lord willing, the Pleasant Home Congregation will hold their Revival Meetings, July 14 through July 21, 2002. Bro. Bob Lehigh of Shrewsbury, Pennsylvania will be our evangelist. We welcome your presence and your prayers.

Sister Carol Walker, Cor.

#### SHREWSBURY, PENNSYLVANIA

The Lord willing, the Shrewsbury Congregation is looking forward to another Revival Meeting this summer. Bro. Paul Skiles from the Torreon Mission in New Mexico plans to be with us from July 28 through August 4. You are cordially invited to come, worship, pray, and fellowship with us.

Sister Fern Ness, Cor.

## BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA

Lord willing, Bethel Congregation is looking forward to a Revival, August 11 through 18, 2002. Bro. Mark Andrews from Grandview, Missouri plans to be the evangelist. Pray, come, and enjoy our worship time together. How many times have we missed blessings because we thought someone else should do our work the Lord has for us.

The Bethel School is also looking for three teachers for the 2002-2003 school year. Teachers are needed for grades 1 and 2, 3 and 4, 5 and 6.

Sister Fern Wolfe, Cor.

## ENGLEWOOD, OHIO

The Englewood Congregation plans to have a Revival, August 25 through 31. Brother Rod Renicker will be our message bearer. Times: 9:30 Saturday A.M., 6:30 Sunday P.M., 7:30 P.M. week days. Your presence and prayers would be greatly appreciated.

Our welcome is extended to our September 22 Harvest Meeting. If the Lord wills, Brother Tom St. John will bring the message. This replaces the usual morning preaching service.

After much meditation and leading of the Holy Spirit, Matthew Martin from Kentucky, fulfilled his desire for Christian baptism. The service took place after Sunday morning service. Praise the Lord for His drawing power—even for the young. May our prayers be a constant encouragement for his Christian growth.

Sister Ruth Speicher, Cor.

## SWALLOW FALLS, MARYLAND

The Swallow Falls Congregation will be holding Revival Meetings and Lovefeast Services in November instead of the usual dates in August, Lord willing.

Sister Edith Yoder, Cor.

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## **ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR AUGUST 2002**

August 4 - Final Thought - I Cor. 16:13-24

1. Explain the phrase "Quit you like men,".
2. How can we become addicted to the ministry of the saints?

August 11 - Paul's Afflictions a Source of Consolation - II Cor. 1:1-14

1. Is it possible for the sufferings of Christ to abound in us who live in America?
2. Paul was comforted by God in all of his tribulation, but what seems to be the source of his rejoicing in verse 12?

August 18 - Paul Contemplates a Sorrowful Visit - II Cor. 1:15-2:11

1. Because Paul had been unable to visit them as he had planned they accused him of deception and following the flesh; how can we deal with misunderstandings among God's people?
2. In I Cor. 5 they were instructed to discipline a man living in sin; what was the outcome and what were they to do now?

August 25 - An Epistle of Christ - II Cor. 2:12-3:6

1. When all of our plans fall apart, our circumstances are very difficult, and we can't even explain the detours and disappointments, how can we know that God is in control?
2. How can we as Christians become an epistle known and read of all men?



## **YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR AUGUST 2002**

August 4 - God's Claim - Matt. 6:33, I Cor. 3:16-23, I Cor. 10:21-33

1. What things will God add if we are seeking His kingdom first?
2. If all things are lawful for me, does that mean that I can do whatever I please?

August 11 - Guidance - Ps. 23:1-6, Matt. 11:27-30, Luke 1:73-79, John 16:13-14

1. How does the Lord become our shepherd?
2. If Jesus has received all things from the Father, such as light, truth, holiness, righteousness, and salvation, how do we acquire them for ourselves?

August 18 - Flattery - Job 32:20-22, Ps. 78:35-38, Pr. 28:21-25, Mark 12:13-17

1. How can we give proper honor and respect to others without using flattery?
2. In what ways can we flatter God with our mouth?

August 25 - Half Heartedness - II Kings 10:30-31, Luke 14:16-27, Acts 28:23-27, Heb. 2:1-3

1. How can we have the love of Jesus and still obey His command to hate our father, mother, wife, children, brothers, and sisters?
2. What is our answer to the great question "How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?"

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# BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXX

AUGUST, 2002

NO

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

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OUR MOTTO: Scriptural in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,  
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

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## MUST JESUS BEAR THE CROSS ALONE

Must Jesus bear the cross alone  
And all the world go free?  
No, there's a cross for ev'ry one,  
And there's a cross for me.

The consecrated cross I'll bear  
Till death shall set me free,  
And then go home my crown to wear,  
For there's a crown for me.

Upon the crystal pavement, down  
At Jesus' pierced feet,  
Joyful I'll cast my golden crown,  
And his dear name repeat.

O precious cross! O glorious crown!  
O resurrection day!  
May angels from the stars come down,  
And bear my soul away.

-T. Shepherd

## TEMPTED IN ALL POINTS LIKE AS WE ARE

After Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River, He was led by the Holy Spirit into the desert. There He spent forty days in fasting and prayer. While fasting and praying, He was tempted by Satan. The most significant temptations came at the close of the forty day period.

Forty days is a long time to go without food. It is considered the extreme in fasting. Many who fast must be hospitalized long before forty days. Jesus' physical hunger would have been extreme. Recognizing this extreme need, Satan was present to suggest what Jesus might do to meet the condition. He suggested that Jesus might simply turn a nearby stone into a loaf of bread. That would not have been impossible for Jesus. Later he was able to multiply the bread as He fed the five thousand and the four thousand.

The first problem with Satan's suggestion was the language of the temptation. He said, "If thou be the Son of God". The implication was that Jesus must do this to prove that He was the Son of God. The Sonship of Jesus is a matter of faith not of a proving work. Satan was casting doubt upon Who He really was.

This temptation involved a necessity. Bread is the staff of life. It represents to us those things that are needed for the sustenance of our physical lives. We are willing to do much for those necessities. Are we even willing to do what is wrong and sinful? Jesus was

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hungry, but He resisted this temptation by quoting scripture. He told Satan that man does not live by bread alone. As important as bread or the necessities are, they still are not the most important part of our lives. We must remember that the Spiritual realm of our lives is more important than even our physical necessities.

Next, Satan took Jesus to a high mountain where he was able to show Jesus all the present and future kingdoms of the world. By his power he was able to show Him the United States and other great powers that would arise in future centuries. Satan stated that the power of these kingdoms was under his control. He offered to give Jesus this power if He would fall down and worship him. Political power contains great military and social powers. These all come under Satan's authority. Jesus refused this temptation by telling Satan that only God should be worshipped not the political and national powers that be. Christians should not become entangled in political power, since it is a part of the kingdom of the world not the kingdom of God

The last temptation was Satan taking Jesus up on the pinnacle of the Temple in Jerusalem. This would have been the highest point in the city at that time. This temptation was double-edged. It contained a temptation in connection with the Temple which would imply a temptation to be religious rather than following God.

In this temptation Satan quoted scripture trying to persuade Jesus to jump from the pinnacle. Satan said that the angels would catch Him and protect Him from any harm. With the combination of location and the use of scripture, Satan was trying to persuade Jesus that His personal safety was assured if He would only do as Satan suggested. To this temptation, Jesus answered with scripture that no one should tempt the Lord thy God. How many times are we tempted to do less than what God would have us to do, that we might preserve our safety. While we might not be in a life or death situation, we may want to preserve ourselves from ridicule, discomfort, or annoyance. To be safe we may do less or say less or live less righteously, if that will bring us safety. Our personal safety is important, but serving God is of more importance. Will we overcome such a temptation when it comes?



Jesus met the challenges of Satan each time with scripture. If we are grounded in the Word of God, we will be able to defeat Satan's temptations. It is a sure thing that Satan will tempt us. He tempted Jesus, so he will also tempt the followers of Jesus.

It was important that Jesus pass this test. If He had yielded to any of Satan's temptations, He would not have been the perfect, sinless, Lamb of God. It was necessary for Him to be perfect when He was crucified. With sin, He could not have been the Saviour of sinful men. He was the perfect Lamb of God offered as the Pass-over Lamb upon that Good Friday. His sacrifice was effective, sinful men could be saved.

After Jesus had overcome Satan's attempts, Satan left Him for the time being. Instead of bread from a stone, He had angel's food.

When Jesus went to Galilee to begin His public ministry, He went in great power. Since He had overcome Satan's temptations, He was able to minister to the people.

Do you desire to overcome Satan's temptations, so you can serve others through the power of God?

M.C.Cook

## **STRAIGHTWAY**

"Now as he walked by the sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men. And straightway they forsook their nets, and followed him." Mark 1:16-18.

The word "straightway" is found eighty-two times in the Bible, forty-one of those times in the book of Mark. The word indicates an immediacy, an urgency, which has to be addressed now. The word "straightway" is also used in Matthew 4:20, referring to the same account of Simon and Andrew. Jesus called, and immediately they followed. In Luke 19 we read of Zacchaeus, a rich publican, who climbed up a sycamore tree so he could see Jesus.

Jesus looked up, saw Zacchaeus, and said, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down; for today I must abide at thy house." Verse six tells us, "And he made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully."

These accounts show us that these men had an unwavering obedience toward Christ. When He spoke, they obeyed.

The Apostle Paul was another. Acts, chapter nine, gives the account of Paul on the Damascus road. A light from heaven surrounded him and blinded him. He talked with Jesus and Jesus told him to go into the city and "it shall be told thee what thou must do." Paul's willingness in verse six in saying "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" is worth noting. Ananias found him and told him, "Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hast sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost." (verse 17) Verse 18 and 20: "And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized. And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God." Note the word "immediately" in verse 18 and "straightway" again, in verse 20. The urgency is there.

In Acts 16 we read of the vision Paul had, in which a man said, "Come over into Macedonia, and help us." (verse 9) Verse 10 tells us, "And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them." Their response was immediate. Their obedience to God's call was without reservation.

After reading these scriptures it is not hard to conclude what God expects of us. In Acts 17, verse 32 we have this account: "And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked: and others said, We will hear thee again of this matter." Nowhere does it say that those who waited ever found the Lord. Also, in Acts 24:25, after hearing the testimony of Paul, "Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee." We have no record of Felix ever calling for Paul again.

As the song says: "Isaiah heard the voice of the Lord, and he

said, here am I, send me." Is God calling you, either to salvation or some special service? Why do you wait? By waiting, you are giving credence to your own doubts and fears. Felix was afraid, that is why he put off salvation. Yet his immortal soul was in the balance. If you put God off, He may just take your answer for a no. It was said of George Whitefield that he wept throughout his sermons. Often folks would mention this to him. "You blame me for weeping," he would say; "but how can I help it when you will not weep for yourselves? Your immortal souls are on the verge of destruction, and for all you know, you may be hearing your last sermon, and may never more have an opportunity to have Christ offered to you!"

The message is urgent. God is calling. Are you unsaved? Do not hesitate one more second! You may not have another chance. Is God calling you to the mission field? The needs are great. People need God. These people afore mentioned did not hesitate. Are we hesitating?

Brother Lynn H. Miller  
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## **NOT BY WORKS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS WHICH WE HAVE DONE**

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost." Titus 3:5.

"For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 5:20.

What should be the most basic teaching of Christianity has caused raging controversy ever since shortly after the establishment of the Church. The earthly church of today continues to struggle with this problem, causing great rifts and splits therein.

Unfortunately, great masses of humanity do not even link salvation with going to Heaven. Many of the modern churches foster



the idea that good works, of themselves, will gain the gratitude and blessing of God. The "social gospel" though seldom referred to anymore is very much alive and well. Is it any wonder that many individuals who never take the time to gather for public worship and practice sinful habits contrary to the Word of God believe they will get to Heaven because they "have a good heart and are willing to help others?"

While this situation is sad, it is even more disheartening that there are individuals who are giving their time and energy to "things of the Lord" who have never experienced the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. It is possible to deny oneself from "the things of this world" and never have a salvation experience.

Praise God, it is according to His mercy that He saved us. Not one individual was ever or will ever be good enough to meet the standards of a Holy God perfectly. Like the lepers of old we have to cry out "unclean, unclean."

God saved us by the washing of regeneration. We who are redeemed are washed in the blood of the Lamb. While we personally believe that baptism is the final work of salvation, the waters of baptism cannot wash away our sin. The Word of God can be symbolic of a cleansing but unless it brings one to the "fountain filled with blood, drawn from Immanuel's veins," it is without the power to change lives.

God saved us through the renewing of the Holy Ghost. While we never arrive at perfection in this life, we are given the ability to live above sin. To use the excuse that God saved us by His mercy to condone sin in a Christian's life is to ignore Scripture. After salvation it is no longer **our righteousness** that is lived out but the righteousness of Jesus Christ enabled by the Holy Spirit.

That was the problem with the scribes and the Pharisees. First of all, they depended on a religious system to gain favor with God. The same problem exists today. All the religious systems of today extend an appeal to find satisfaction in some form of a god. If we were to believe a major portion of Christianity today we would come to the conclusion that the scribes and Pharisees were right and Jesus Christ was wrong! According to them Jesus Christ had a bad attitude about other religions.

Secondly, they added their own rules and regulations to God's instructions. We are aware that many accuse the plain churches of doing this very same thing. It has had an effect upon our own Dunkard Brethren Church. While there is danger in making certain rules synonymous with salvation, there is also another extreme. Several years ago there was what was called the "Jesus people movement." Some of these groups ended up as mind control cults. While teaching such things as modest dress for women and uncut hair it was mixed with quite unorthodox teachings and practices. Perhaps this was the start of the current warnings against following the teachings of men rather than God which ended up **ignoring or re-interpreting** portions of God's Word.

Of course the greatest problem with the scribes and the Pharisees was that they rejected Jesus Christ. The second phase of our opening verse reads, "Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior," The salvation life is the abundant life. Not only do we have Heaven to look forward to but the blessing of God in this life. All too often we depend on our work to supply our needs and forget about the promises of God. This does not mean that we should be sluggards. When we come to the point that we can not give at least one day to God from our labors for fear of economic failure we have lost the value of salvation.

The last phrase of this verse reads, "That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life." As pleasant as life may be for some of us and as joyous as worshipping together should be there is no comparison to what we have to look forward to. We have been justified, made righteous through Christ. We have been and are being sanctified, set apart for His Kingdom. We will be glorified, made perfect in heavenly places. As the song writer says, "Oh that will be glory for me."

In conclusion, let us not glory in our own righteousness. Let us be careful in judging others by our standards in place of Bible standards. Let each of us search their own heart to see if their lifestyle matches that given in God's Holy Word. May Heaven be our goal and Jesus Christ our perfect example and redeemer.

Brother James M. Hite  
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## WHAT IS ESSENTIAL FOR SALVATION: OR IS CIRCUMCISION NECESSARY?

Acts 15:1-12

After a "long time" (ch. 14 v. 26), some "certain men" came down from Judea and began teaching the brethren at Antioch and insisting that they could not be saved unless they kept the whole Law - and became Jews, including going through the rite of circumcision. Of course, this made a big problem, because the Lord had obviously revealed His will to the contrary. Paul and Barnabas had a big argument and debate with them.

So, Paul and Barnabas (with some others) were sent on another journey. This time, it was to go up to Jerusalem to "the apostles and elders" and present this question on circumcision.

As they were traveling, they told all the churches on the way about how many Gentiles were being converted. This, of course, caused great joy among the churches of Samaria, who were not considered to be full blooded Jews, anyway! (Remember that Philip had ministered here.) It almost seems Paul and Barnabas were rallying support for their cause! Or, maybe they were so full of joy of the Lord that they were just overflowing with their witness and testimony. Anyway, they safely arrived at Jerusalem.

When they arrived at Jerusalem, the apostles and elders received them, and listened to the work that God had been performing on Paul and Barnabas's first missionary journey. They told of all the Gentiles who had become believers, and how that God had blessed the work, and established churches in all those places! There was only one "slight" problem! All those new Gentile believers were not circumcised. And certain of the sect of the Pharisees had a big problem with this. Now these who were from the sect of the Pharisees were believers in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, or they would not have associated with "this bunch" at all. But they were not willing to lay aside the old for the new. (Jesus talked about putting new wine into old wineskins, and how the bottles would crack and break if such a thing were done. But these folks did not get it. They were not able to make the application of putting new wine into old bottles to the role of the Mosaic Law in this new religion.)



So they held what we today call the first council meeting (or General Conference). It was on a wider scale than just one church congregation (verse 6). After much disputing, Peter gave the first major speech. This was fitting and proper, because it was through Peter that the first Gentile was taken in and received the Holy Ghost without question (see Acts 10 and 11). Peter gave a good summary report of the matter. After Peter's report, the multitude kept silent, and listened to the report of Paul and Barnabas.

**Summary Thought...**Don't become so caught up in your particular style of worship or religion that you "put God in a box." While we should not just "fall for anything," yet we need to exercise caution that we do not limit the Holy Spirit's working among us to the extent that He just leaves.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Brother Robert S. Lehigh

## MODESTY

At this past General Conference I had to ask myself, "How are others defining modesty?"

Just recently my husband and I read a book entitled Every Man's Battle by Stephen Arterburn and Fred Stoeker. It was on how a man always struggles with keeping his mind and life pure in the eyes of God. It made me realize that there are many ways that we as women are causing men to sin. Our dress is one way. The way we walk and hold our bodies are other ways. Do the sisters out there realize what we are doing to men by the way we make and wear our dresses?

I ask the fathers and men out there. Deep down in your heart, mind and thought life, what happens within you when you see a sister wearing a tight long skirt with a slit up the back or front? Or a tight dress that shows ladies' body form? Or a low neck dress? Or a dress made out of material that can be seen through? Or a short dress that barely covers the knee? What did you think of when I just wrote about these things? Is your mind right?

If this bothers the fathers then why are we allowing our daugh-

ters/wives to wear these clothes when it causes men to struggle? This is every man's battle, what are we doing to help in the battle?

Before I read the above mentioned book I always thought that it was the man's problem and he had to straighten out his life, I did not need to watch what I did. He was supposed to be in control of his thought life and eyes. I was wrong. If I cause a man to sin because of the clothes I wear or the way I act I am just as guilty.

I did a little research and want to know what you think. What are the fathers and men thinking on this subject?

Modesty, what is it? What does it mean? I looked it up in the dictionary and this is the meaning. 1. The state or quality of being modest. 2. Reserve or propriety (proper) in speech, dress, or behavior. 3. Lack of pretentiousness (Claiming or demanding a position of distinction or merit. Making an extravagant outer show). Modest means: 1. Having or showing a moderate estimation of one's own talents, abilities, and value. 2. Having a shy and retiring nature; reserved. 3. Having a regard for decencies of behavior or dress. 4. Quiet and humble in appearance; unpretentious. 5. Moderate; not extreme.

According to the definition of modesty are we as sisters dressing and acting in a reserved or in a proper way? Are we dressing or acting in a pretentious way? What do you as men think and feel when sisters dress in this way?

What are we as parents, doing to help fight the battle? Satan is ever strong and he wants our people, not just young people. He wants us all to fall to him. This is a true battle that we face today. How do the men and fathers actually feel about modesty? What do the men and fathers define as modesty? How do the men and fathers say we fight the battle?

What ARE we doing to fight this battle?

Sister Mabel Chupp

## KENYA KNOTES

June 23, 2002 — Safe Arrival

Hello everyone. I just thought that I would spread the word that Jere, Debra and their family made it safely to Africa. Ray's got home about 6:00 this evening and they had a safe trip from Nairobi. Things are very busy here and the children are very excited and having lots of fun. I will go for now. Just wanted to let you know that everyone was "home" safe.

Love,  
Nancy

### We're Here

We have arrived! Do not worry, once we got on the plane in Detroit we did great! We did miss the call for the people for children to go first, so it was a rough time getting down the aisle to our seats. We were so thankful though, that the man at the gate encouraged us to check through some of our carry ons. We checked through two of them. That really helped. We were in the center aisle and had three seats in two rows. It was nice except we did not get to look out very much. Jeremiah found an empty row to show the children out a few times. Micaiah was just thrilled with the entire ride and never tired of it. He kept asking questions and amusing the people nearby. Hosanna spent the first leg, to Amsterdam, looking sad and talking about missing people. By the time we got on our plane in Amsterdam, she was fine. We left Detroit at 7:45 P.M. and still had two hours in Amsterdam. We spent an hour in a children's playroom there, then got on the next flight. We left there at 11:00 A.M. and got to Nairobi at 8:00 A.M. It went so well. We thank everyone for their prayers! Getting our visas went so fast, I could not believe it. By the time we saw Ray and Cheryl we were worn out. We had a good night's rest at the Mennonite Guesthouse. We worshipped with the Mennonites in Nakuru this morning and had dinner at Allen's. It has been a good day of fellowship and it is good to be back in Kenya. The house here does not seem like the same place.



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June 24, 2002 — Our First Day At Home

This was a beautiful sunny day in Kenya! It was neat to see the new house. The masons are doing the final mudding on the outside of the house. They were working on the veranda walls and that is the last of that. Ray was cutting boards for the ceiling of the main floor. Jeremiah helped up at the house for a while, then he went to visit Hosea in town. We waited dinner for him for a while and then went ahead and ate. He came in just as we finished and I knew right away that he had been fed already. He was so tickled because he had had ugoli! Nancy did laundry for all of us today and I started unpacking. So much stuff and so little space! The children got along wonderfully. We have had different people stop in to see us. Florence was the first, last night, shortly after we arrived here. Today, Gilbert and Alice, Phanuel and Esta, and a few boys we knew, came. They (the boys) certainly remembered us better than we remembered them. We had a nap, as last night was not so good. Jerusha was up at 1:30, and ready to go. She woke the other two. They are all in a double bed. Finally, after two hours, Jeremiah brought her to our bed. So then we had both the younger ones with us. That is not my style! We are all pretty tired. We have ice cream in the making for Hosanna's birthday. Ray's were all excited about the ice cream maker we brought. Ray had faith enough to get the ingredients to make it before they picked us up at the airport! Cheryl made a cake and Cherilyn and Kimberly decorated it.

## Tuesday and Wednesday, June 25 and 26, 2002

I have been sick. I have never had such an upset stomach in all my life. It seemed to start on Monday night. I was so weak and sick-feeling this morning that I slept most of the morning. This afternoon was better. I feel a lot more normal and can actually work at unpacking.

Tuesday: More people stopped by today to see us. That was nice. We felt terribly groggy today because the children were awake so much last night. They were up from 1:00 A.M. to 4:00 A.M., between the four of them. We had Nancy awake too, as she sleeps in the living room while Stuart and she are both here. I think Ray and Cheryl heard us too. We got a little nap today, but we did not

let the children sleep much! Today was Nancy's birthday. She and Stuart ate supper in Kitale, then we had cappachino and hot chocolate, and birthday balloons. It was fun. The guys are working hard at the house.

Wednesday: Last night went better. The older two slept the entire night and Jerusha was up only a half hour. Matthias squirmed and was awake for two hours, but I dozed some and kept pushing his pacifier in. Jeremiah worked on plumbing today, and was he ever dirty! He enjoyed it though, as that is down his line. Just looking up at the new house I can see that it is coming along. Ray has a lot of the tresses up. Between our children here, and the neighbor children, it gets to be a zoo at times. After so much, someone sent them home. We had a beautiful rain this evening. Nancy made chichen-etti for supper, and it was really good. Nancy, Cherilyn and I walked to town this afternoon and got the mail. Then we went to Hosea's shop. It was good to visit with them. I carried Matthias on my back, and everyone looks at the new white baby. It is time for bed and it is still raining. The girls all played real nice with the new Playful Patterns game that was given to Hosanna for her birthday. Goodnight.

Hello, this is Jere, June 27, 2002

I have been doing plumbing at the new house. It is going to be a really nice place. I am cutting all the 1/2 inch pipe with a hack saw and threading it with a hand threader. (The reason is the PVC here is very low quality and if a joint is moved once it is set it will leak. Also the fittings are not consistent, usually too big to fit so they slop around.) It is going rather slow. I have done the bathroom in the main part of the house (sink, tub and toilet hook-ups). I pressure tested it and found all my joints were holding (I was worried) but one tee and one elbow were bad!! So I will need to replace them. Also to lay the pipe we cut channels in the bricks in the wall but that is rather easy in part because I am being helped by one of the young boys here and also the bricks are rather soft (you can cut them with a utility knife). Today though I went to Kitale with Ray to get more supplies. So I did not get much done today. I think the teeth on the pipe threader are going bad, so that is going



much slower. But we are having a good time all in all. Stuart is always teasing me so that keeps things lively. Well, I'd better go.

Jeremiah

This morning was rather cool and damp because of the rain last evening. But the sun was shining and it was a beautiful day. I finally had a full night's sleep, as the children seem to be adjusted to the new time zone. My stomach is still a little touchy but I do feel a lot better. Everyone else seems to be well and the boys' coughs seem to be gone. Matthias still has this nasty red "rash" on his face. I am treating it with something like gentian violet that they have here. Jeremiah worked on plumbing or water lines today. Ray and Stuart were up on the roof and got several sheets of tin (they call it steel) up. Jeremiah likes the ground better!! This afternoon Cheryl and I went to a baby party for Moses Entabo's baby girl. She is the sweetest little thing. Her name is Penninah Joy. I had the privilege of dressing her. It was great to see the ladies from church. There are a lot of the same ones here, but there are new ones, too. It was a good time of fellowship and reminder that we are back in Kenya! I just love to hear and watch them sing. The children are really red tonight, as it was a little muddy today. So it is time to wash up. Peter Musumba stopped by. He is really proud of his newborn, Merle Sweitzer. This is his first boy after three girls. Love to all.

June 28, 2002

Today was cool and partly cloudy. Some of the church people are working the maize shamba between this house and the new house. One lady has an eight month old baby girl, and we often hear her howling. I often have to stop and think whether it is one of our children! I finished unpacking everything today. It is good to be done with that. Nancy washes all the dirty clothes every day. You never know when we will not be able to, because of the rain. She gets a real early start so the clothes can be dry before the rain. It came at 3:00 P.M. today, and did it ever! We had several bouts of hail (like peas) along with it. But the guys never came down from the new house! They had enough of it up that they were protected. Most of the little girls were up there too, and they were not im-



pressed! When it let up they came home crying, saying they were cold. "This is how it snows in Africa," they said. Then they sat around wrapped in their little blankets. Nancy made Wet Burrito Casserole for supper. It was really good, but she really worked to make it. She had to soak the beans a day, cook them, and mash them. She also had to make chapati for the tortilla shells. I make that casserole at home in a half hour! But it was really good! Some of Ray's girls are sick on the stomach today — hopefully it will pass soon. God Bless!

June 29 & 30, 2002

Saturday was fairly relaxed and the men did not work on the house. Ray and Cheryl went to Kitale to get supplies and took Stuart and their two little girls along. The other children played really well here. Micaiah played with the neighbor boys and the girls all colored in coloring books in the corn crib. I guess that gave them some privacy! We did some laundry and swept and mopped the entire house. A lot of the bigger neighbor boys came and played soccer on the compound. Cheryl came home from Kitale saying a guy wanted to be her husband. She told him she had a husband and he said she needed a black one. She told him she had five children and he said he would take care of them and her house. WHAT A JOKE! We all had a laugh anyway! Tonight the local ministers came for a meeting with Ray and Jeremiah. We are starting to get a picture of the needs in the church here. It is wonderful having HOT, CLEAN water. I just ran a few inches of water into a tote and gave the younger two a bath! Hosanna actually took a shower and enjoyed it! She said, "I don't get any water in my ears."

Sunday

We really enjoyed church today. We stayed here and Ray went to Kaptalamwa with Hosea Potea and Patrick's children. Hosea had Sunday School here and Jeremiah preached on "Love One Another". All the children and some of the adults took naps. At 4:00 P.M. was the evening service. Peter Musumba had the service. He took it from Romans and he did a good job! I did not hear all of it because Jerusha is sick with a high temp and she is really fussy. Stuart is feeling better, and Micaiah and Nancy have the stomach flu. Florence has it too. Ray did not get home until 5:30 or

so, and he has several people he brought to take to the hospital tomorrow. Cheryl is feeding them supper, and we are having popcorn. It was a big day!

July 1, 2002

There was a lot of laundry today. With all the baths Saturday night and church yesterday, we kept the washer busy. But, thankfully, it didn't rain, so we got it all dried. I went up to the new house and it felt different. It is starting to feel like a house! The guys have half the roof covered with steel! Jeremiah was hoping to have the water lines to the kitchen by the end of today. He had done the main bath, and the laundry. The children from Kaptalamwa are done at the hospital with no problem, Cheryl got the medicine at the chemist, then sent them on their way home. I made peanut butter finger bars for supper. It was nice to be in the kitchen again. Nancy made superior meat casserole for supper. It was good. We also had jello, which the children all loved. The guys were not here for supper. They left at 6:00 P.M. to go to visit a member, and they have not gotten back yet.

July 2 and 3, 2002

There is still a lot of sickness here. Jerusha was somewhat better today. Stuart just cannot get his stomach bug licked. Hosanna and Micaiah both have temps now. My throat is starting to feel funny. Other than that, we are doing pretty well. Cheryl had a real nice supper, gourmet potatoes, beef with cream of soup, string beans, then peanut butter and lemon meringue pies for dessert. Stuart was real regretful that he had to be sick on this day, because it was the first he would have pie here! But our guys were not here for supper, because they had an official meeting tonight. I felt bad for Cheryl. But they did eat around 9:30 P.M. when they were done. The children were so cute tonight. They played Kenya wedding and they did the singing march and everything! I have never seen a Kenyan wedding, so it was really interesting to me. Cheryl and Nancy said they used to play it all the time, till the adults were tired of it. After that they played a "tailor shop". Emelda came, then Nancy took her to the hospital to be with her sister who is about to have her first baby. It reminded me of a night a little over three years ago when Frank was born! I had no desire to go.



Wednesday

Today is Ray and Cheryl's ninth Wedding Anniversary! Nancy was busy today, since she took care of all the children and the meals. Ray and Cheryl went away for the day, and I was sick. Jeremiah and Stuart worked up at the house. Samuel and Abel were there, and Abel had a little accident when he jumped from the scaffolding. Nancy doctored the wound on Abel's side, and he went back to work. Late afternoon I took Tylenol and brought my temp down so I could get out of bed. Jerusha seemed better. Hosanna and Micaiah fought some really high temps all day, but seem a little better tonight. We still have not heard anything from Emelda's sister.

July 4, 2002 — Thursday

Before breakfast this morning we heard that Seafa Rose (Emelda's sister) had had a baby girl. We were so relieved for her sake, but within a few hours we got the sad news: Seafa's baby had died. Cheryl heard as she was running errands and went on to the hospital. We felt terrible for Seafa. This was her first child and she was so excited that she carried a diaper bag around for weeks before the baby was due. When Cheryl came home she said she understood why the baby had died. She had had a full cleft palate and could not even breathe properly from the time she was born. She saw her and said she was a nice big girl but she looked awful. She had no upper lip. It seemed to be all open. The poor baby could not get the care here it needed to survive. Seafa's husband is working away and cannot even be contacted. They are going to bury the baby on Saturday they say, at their home place. That is in Western Province, which is several hours away. The church here is so supportive when something like this happens. Florence went right to the hospital this morning and Nancy took the rest of the ladies this afternoon. Cheryl said there were two dead babies there this morning. Death is so common here that it makes you sad. Cheryl did the women's meeting by herself again.

July 4, 2002

Well here I am again.

As I was saying I got the new threader teeth. Things are going



better. I fixed the two leaky fittings. Now I have gone across the top and down to the laundry room. I had only two leaks one fitting (a faulty union) and one loose connection. Both were easily repairable. Monday night we had a meeting with one of the families here. We forgot to tell the women folks about it so we had to leave before supper was ready. The family fed us tea and donuts. We had our meeting. Then I stood to go and Ray said "hold on" and he sniffed the air. They had made us chicken and ugali. It was pretty good. The chicken was probably the oldest and toughest I have ever had. Remember how when you were a child and you ate celery how it never seemed that you could get all the strings cut. Your stalk looked like a little green man with an afro. Well, that is how this chicken leg looked when I was finished. I just could not seem to get it all bit off. As the natives observed my struggle they started talking and I heard the word Mzee (pronounced with a long A) it means "old man". Anyway it was good, and the fellowship was nice and we ate by the light of a kerosene lamp. On Tuesday I did the kitchen and PTL no leaks in the whole system!!! Had another meeting tonight with the Leaders. Lasted fairly late but not too bad. On Wednesday I spent the morning reading the Minutes from the mission board meetings here, to try to get up to speed. In the P.M. I spent most of my time trying to figure out what I was going to do with the other bathroom. I also did not have enough pipe to finish so I did not feel very motivated. (Ray and Cheryl were on their Anniversary and were going to pick more up in Kitale) Finally today was Thursday. I was hoping to finish today, but...I got the plumbing to the end of the house and I have channeled the wall in the shower and bathroom. It is a bit of a headache. I will need to put the whole bathroom together at once; sink, toilet, shower, and outside faucet pipe; then carry it into the bathroom in one piece. AND PRAY FOR NO LEAKS PLEASE!!! It'll be a mess to try to fix if there is. There is a Mission board meeting tomorrow so I doubt that there will be any piping done then. Maybe Saturday we will finish. Well, that's all I have for now. I hope someone finds this male perspective interesting. If you do not please let me know and I will not keep gobbling up your valuable time with my garble.

Till we type again.

JJ Plumber

P.S. Anyone receiving this either direct or through a list is welcome to respond and ask questions. A one sided conversation seems a little conceited. Don't you think? Thanks in advance.

July 5, 2002 - Friday

First thing this morning Ray went with a bunch from the church to have the baby released from the morgue. They took a little pink blanket to wrap her in. Today was African Mission board meeting. Jeremiah really seems to be allergic to that guesthouse. Today he was supposed to spend the whole day down there so he took an allergy pill. We washed the floors, and I started a dessert for supper. I am becoming tired of the sickness. We came through the entire Michigan winter as healthy as can be, and now we are sick in Africa! Surely soon we will be adjusted. Stuart is finally feeling better!

July 6, 2002 — Saturday

Last night Jeremiah agreed to drive the people going to Western Province to bury the baby. He asked if I wanted to go and I thought it sounded interesting. We were to Western Province last time we were here and it was a pretty drive there, and an interesting place. I was excited when I woke, and dressed to go. But as soon as Miciah appeared at our bedroom door I knew I had to stay home. His ear was draining a LOT and he was miserable (temp, and so forth). So he went without me and Cheryl and I took Micaiah to the clinic. The doctor said he had ear infection and gave us antibiotics and a multivitamin syrup. He said his immunity was down from the virus. By evening he acted a lot better. Later I got to thinking that I was not sure I wanted to see the baby. I have never seen a dead baby! I am sure I will sometime, here. Ray worked on putting our children's bunk beds together. They are pretty and it will be nice to have them. But he had to sand them and now he has to put several coats of varnish on them. It will take some days. Cheryl made pizza for dinner. MMMM!!!!!! We had an earlier supper so we could get started on all the baths. It was a nice evening, once Jeremiah came at 7:00 P.M. Stuart and Nancy are becoming excited about going home. We are going to miss Nancy's help and Stuart's sense of humor!



July 7, 2002 — Sunday

This morning's service was really nice. Jeremiah taught Sunday School. And it WAS S.S. not the "first sermon". Several people commented on it and said they really liked it. It took them half the class time before they warmed up to get involved, and then they got INVOLVED! It was really nice to have Ray here to help with the lesson, too. He added a lot. It was interesting. Hosea had the sermon, and it was good too, though it is hard to catch all of it because he does not let Gilbert finish the English before he is on to his next thought. We had to keep our eyes fastened on Gilbert! We had a quick dinner, then everyone but our family left for Nakuru. Stuart and Nancy will go on Safari tomorrow there. Now that I am feeling better Jeremiah is sick! Matthias is healthy. I stayed up with the younger two while the older ones and Jeremiah napped. I read! At 4:00 P.M. the evening service started. I felt silly having them translate just for me, but I guess that was better than not going out. Jeremiah is running a temp. Edwin came in to talk to Jeremiah and then sat and visited a while. He has matured since we were here last time. He taught us Swahili kidogo (a little). It was fun.

July 8, 2002 — Monday

This has been a busy, but quiet day. Jeremiah has been sick and the children have had to have a lot of direction to stay busy. They are getting used to their "Noecker sisters" already. It seemed a little scary to be in charge of this operation, especially with Jeremiah in bed. But I guess it was not too bad once I became used to it. I just felt as if I had to be everywhere all the time; doing laundry, housework, taking care of the children, the visitors, and my sick husband. He was really up and down. He would be up working, then suddenly feel sick, and go to bed. Thankfully he could run to the chemist a few times for medicine for members though. I was so glad to have Gilbert working in our back yard so he could communicate with those who did not know English. I made cookies this afternoon. They turned out really good. It took me too long to make supper. I have to become used to cooking in Kenya, in Cheryl's kitchen. The casserole took almost two hours to bake, for some reason, so supper was late. I even had the oven turned up as high



as it would go. It certainly has its quirks! But it is better than no oven. The member from Kaptalamwa decided she did not want to be in the guesthouse by herself all night, so Florence took her in. That was probably best, because we could barely communicate. It was too late for her to get a ride home tonight.

July 9, 2002 — Tuesday

This morning started out well enough, but by noon I felt ragged. I surely do not want to manage this place alone all the time! Jeremiah felt some better and went to work on the house. One woman here was so exasperating I finally had Jeremiah come talk to her. Then she was all apologetic and she cooperated. Our meals were really interrupted today with people coming and going. When they are here we take opportunity to learn Swahili words. They are always using words we do not know. It is so much fun when we can get an entire thought across in Swahili! The children like to pick out the words they know, and repeat them. Esther (Phanuel's) was here tonight to try to call him where he works away. Her daughter is sick and she wants his counsel. We tried to get him and they said to call back. So she ate supper with us. That was fun because she knows only a few English words. But our supper conversation did not lack! She never was able to get ahold of Phanuel. I felt sorry for her. There was to be a local leadership meeting here tonight, but they postponed it because both Ray and Hosea are missing. It is getting dry here and the maize is showing it. It is curled. We hope for the people's sake that we will get rain soon. They are afraid it will hurt the yield if it stays dry. I made Salisbury Steak, baked Macaroni and cheese, and fresh string beans for supper. For dessert we had Spanish Cream and cookies. Cooking sure is different here. It is pretty tough for me right now!

July 10, 2002 — Wednesday

We had rain last night during the night, for which we are glad. Rays got home last night around 9:00 P.M. It was nice to have them back home. Today was cool and somewhat cloudy. First thing this morning Cheryl cleaned the water-in-filter to the washer, and she found gray short hair. So that means that something died in our well! Gross! Jeremiah had had a fit last week at the way the well was finished here. He thought we could be drinking the re-

mains from lots of things that could have washed down in. That was it for Ray! The guys had their work cut out for the day. They worked on extending the well casing and sealing the top so critters could not climb down in. That took most of the day because of the tools they have here, or do not have here. Jeremiah called me up to the well pit while he was in it. He was really having fun, he said. I guess old trades die hard! We had a unit meeting (staff) while the children slept this afternoon. Cheryl and I made potato soup for supper. It was good. The children were so red from playing in the mud from the guys project that I had Jeremiah give them showers. They were inside a 100L barrel and rolling each other down the hill! Cherilyn made ice pops for snack before bed tonight. That was a real treat!

July 11, 2002 — Thursday

Cheryl had a lot of trouble doing laundry this morning because the water lines had all been disturbed and the filter kept becoming clogged. Jeremiah had put Jik (bleach) into the water lines at bed-time last night and it took most of today to get it through. We washed the main floors this morning with the bleach water. Jeremiah studied this morning, then left after dinner to go pass out shelled maize to the people at Ortum. He had a sermon while he was down there. I guess it all went pretty well, but he felt bad at the end, because a couple women did not get their full share. I really wanted to go along but we remembered this morning that today was Rebecca's baby shower, and I could not miss that. So we were spread pretty thin today. Ray was left to baby-sit the children while he worked on varnishing and sanding the bunk beds for our children. The baby shower went well. There were twenty-five women there, and they did a good job of bringing gifts of their own accord. (That was a problem for a while!) Gilbert's Alice had the Bible Study time on "Our Speech." Little Merle Sweitzer is really cute! It was really good to see Rebecca again. At the end they announced that Roslyn (Go Go's daughter in law with Denny and Chad) had a baby girl. So I guess in sixty days we will have another baby shower. That is how long they wait for the baby girls. We had Ray take us to the shower, then we walked home. It looked really stormy as we came home, and we did get a little wet. Matthias went to sleep near the end as we drank tea and ate mandozi (something like



doughnuts), then he slept all the way home. We had a good day! Everyone seems to be back to health around here, though some of us still have sore throats.

July 12, 2002 — Friday

We had some excitement first thing this morning when Gilbert arrived. The guesthouse was not locked last night. It was an accident, because of having two guys locking, both thought the other did it. Someone went in and stole the expensive plane that Ray got for Gilbert to use a few months ago. The thief tried to find the other blades but could not, and so they have only the blade that was on it. Everyone here was just sick about it, and Gilbert seemed to be in a daze. He did not have work because that is his main tool right now. We talked all day about who it could have been and how to catch them. I did laundry today though it is Cheryl's day to do her laundry. We just worked out our schedule and I had not done it since Monday. I made chocolate chip cookies and they turned out really good. I think that I am getting used to this stove. I went to market to get a few things for the first time since we got here. It went really good. They gave me Kenyan, instead of mazumgu prices (I think!). I thought they might take advantage of me since I look new. Cheryl made Rhubarb Rollup after supper and we had it around 9:00 P.M. — fresh from the oven with ice cream. It was delicious. Cheryl sent a pan of it down to Hoseas because he wondered about it when they bought it on the way home from Nairobi. They all loved it down there too!

July 13, 2002 — Saturday

Today was Rays day off but we have not had a day off since we got here so we all took the day. They wanted to show us some of the places they go for a break. We worked this morning - Jeremiah cut the grass, Ray worked on the bed. Cheryl made a picnic lunch and we left at 10:30 or so. We went through Makutano and kept driving out of town. We traveled down the mountain, then finally parked by the road and got out. It was a beautiful place with mostly rock. Every now and then there was a sandy spot, it was a lot of climbing and going down was tricky. The older four did well on their own. The youngest two were in back carriers. At one sandy spot Jerusha just stood there and buried her feet in the sand. She acted



as if she loved it and it brought back memories of going to Lake Michigan! We finally ate our lunch on a low flat spot by a pool of water between the rocks. The children waded in the water and had a lot of fun. We could see a water fall from where we were eating. We saw a few Kenyans. They looked at us as if we would have watched baboons, if there had been any! We got back home at 2 or so — are we ever glad we live up here where it is cool! We were exhausted and rested for a few hours, then I made Meat and Potato Quiche for supper. Bath night!

We kind of wonder about the water being contaminated. Jeremiah really questioned it because of his experience with well drilling. It is fixed now and no one has been sick on the stomach. PTL!

July 14, 2002 — Sunday

Ray, Kimberly, Michelle and Veronica and our family went to Kaptalamwa today. It was a different way than we used to take, but I think I forgot how long and how rough it was. We were only on the road for fifteen minutes and I thought I would be sick. I moved toward the front and looked out the front window and I felt better. The children seemed to enjoy the ride, though Kimberly said her stomach hurt and sat on my lap for a while. Church up there started at 10:45 and there were not many people. There is only one guy that was there before, that we knew. Ray had Bible Study and Jeremiah preached. After church the guys went to Frederick's house and visited while the children and I took a walk. It started to rain and then it really got chilly. We got in the cruiser and waited. Soon they had chai ready for us - and that was all it was, tea. Then we left to go home. The sights were beautiful on that drive, and we enjoyed that. We stopped and saw the Paraywa mission point (church) site. It is on the brink of a hill and has a lovely valley view. It is also very windy. Some of the "members" came by as we stopped. It was good to meet them. It was good to get home at 3:55 P.M. — just in time for the evening service here. Cheryl made chicken-etti and we ate it as soon as we sent off all the people from church at 5:30. The children are extra fussy tonight because they did not get naps as usual. They did have a little snack of crackers and bananas on the way home.

Debra

## GRAVEN WITH AN IRON PEN

"Oh, that my words were now written! oh that they were printed in a book! That they were graven with an iron pen and lead in the rock for ever! For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth:" Job 19:23-25

Job's friends were hard on him. After all he had been through, they came and accused him of hypocrisy. His reply to them was classic, and his desire, to have his words forever immortalized, was fulfilled. Perhaps the oldest book of the Bible is read daily by thousands and his testimony of the goodness of God and the promise of a Messiah live on today. He believed, and he could not keep silent. He looked forward to seeing Jesus. He knew that someone had to save him: he could not save himself.

"For I know that my redeemer liveth." What is our testimony when we are accused? Do we tell others of the goodness of God? Job suffered greatly at the hands of evil, and his words, in the face of such oppression are a great lesson to us today. The Apostle Paul could have been set free, yet he appealed to Rome. He felt it was more important that Caesar heard the Word of God than for him to have his life spared.

How is it with us? Are our homes, our "valuables", even our very lives worth more to us than the testimony of Jesus Christ? "Come, now, let us reason together, saith the Lord;" Isaiah 1:18. Are we more interested in the things which will burn up, the things which moth and rust will corrupt, or are we rather interested in eternal things, that which will last forever? Can we say with Job, and are we willing to shout it from the housetops, "I know that my redeemer liveth?"

Brother Lynn H. Miller  
70 Round Barn Road  
Newmanstown, PA 17073-9162



## OBITUARY

### IRENE M. FLORY

Sister Irene M. Flory was born in Defiance County, Ohio, November 24, 1915, and passed away at her home at Collins, Mississippi, June 17, 2002, at the age of 86.

She was the daughter of Herman and Matilda Ritcher and was raised in a German Lutheran community. She was a member of the Lutheran Church until November 1933 at which time she was baptized into the Brethren faith at Pleasant Ridge Church.

She married Dorrice Lee Flory, March 5, 1933. They would have been married 70 years if she had lived until March 2003.

Mom lived most of her adult years in Michigan and was part of the fellowship that was started at Clarksville in June of 1954 and was later established at Hart, Michigan in 1963. She was also a charter member of the Pine Ridge Dunkard Brethren Church in Mississippi.

She is survived by her husband, Lee; son and wife Eldon and Deloris Flory of Jamesport, Missouri and daughter and husband Ruth Ann and Maurice Wells of Collins, Mississippi; nine grandchildren, Debra Flory of Bernville, Pennsylvania, Donna and Matthew Beery, Anita and Samuel Miller, Timothy and Sandra Flory and Gina and Henry Lentz all of Jamesport, Missouri, Barbara and Eugene Bowman of Quinter, Kansas and Janet and Wendell Austin of Bradford, Ohio. Also Glenn and Sharon Wells of Taylorsville, Mississippi and Melissa and Michael Heisey of Collins, Mississippi. She had twenty-nine great-grandchildren at the time of her death.

Besides her parents she was preceded in death by her sister, Laura Wendt and a granddaughter, Rebecca Flory.

Mom was a natural born home-maker and very much enjoyed family and friends. She was a gracious hostess and guests felt welcome in her home, yet she was not able to pursue it like she would have enjoyed doing because of her afflictions over the years.

Services were held at the Dunkard Brethren Church house at Hart, Michigan, June 21, 2002, by Bro. William Carpenter and was laid to rest in the city of Hart Cemetery.



**NEWS ITEM****WALNUT GROVE, PENNSYLVANIA**

Walnut Grove Congregation plans, Lord willing, to have a revival meeting starting September 18 and ending September 22. Brother David Rice from Ohio is to be our evangelist. We are a small congregation, and will appreciate your presence and your prayers. May saints be revived and strengthened, and unsaved lives be changed to His glory.

Sister Dorothy Nell, Cor.

**PLEASANT RIDGE, OHIO**

The Pleasant Ridge Congregation plans to have their Harvest Meeting on Sunday, September 8, with Bro. Terry Gunderman the speaker.

Also, there will be services on Friday evening, October 18, Saturday afternoon at 2:00, Lovefeast at 7:00, and services Sunday, October 20, morning and afternoon.

We welcome all who can to join us in these meetings.

Sister Marjorie Flory, Cor.

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR  
SEPTEMBER 2002**

Sept. 1 - The Ministry of the Spirit is Glorious - II Cor. 3:7-18

1. What is the Holy Spirit's ministry and purpose?
2. What must we do to have the vail removed from our mind and heart?

Sept. 8 - The Ministry of Christ Entrusted to Earthen Vessels - II Cor. 4:1-15

1. How can we manifest the truth of the Gospel in our lives?

2. What is "this treasure in earthen vessels"?

Sept. 15 - Groaning for Immortality - II Cor. 4:16-5:11

1. How is it possible for the "inward man" to be "renewed day by day", while the natural body is aging and slowly dying?

2. How can mortality "be swallowed up of life"?

Sept. 22 - A New Creation in Christ - II Cor. 5:12-21

1. Why is it so important that our hearts embrace the virtues which our outward appearance portrays?

2. How can we live unto Christ instead of living unto ourselves?

Sept. 29 - No Limitations in the Ministry of Christ - II Cor. 6:1-10

1. Why must we be careful not to obstruct or discredit the Ministry of the Gospel?

2. How can we, as Paul said, seemingly have nothing and yet possess all things?

**YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR  
SEPTEMBER 2002**

Sept. 1 - Our Difficulties - I Sam. 12:15-25, Phil. 2:12-21, Rev. 3:14-22

1. What is the underlying reason for most of mankind's difficulties?

2. Why does God rebuke and chasten His people?

Sept. 8 - Our Heavenly Home - Matt. 6:19-21, Luke 10:17-20, John 14:1-6, Rev. 21:1-27

1. What are the treasures we should be laying up in Heaven?

2. How can we have our name "written in Heaven"?

Sept. 15 - Our Rebellion - Deut. 9:24, I Sam. 15:22-23, Isa. 65:2-5, Phil. 3:16-21, Rom. 10:1-13

1. Why does the human nature of mankind rebel against God?

2. Why does God continue to reach out to mankind even in the midst of their rebellion against Him?

Sept. 22 - Our Spiritual Growth - II Cor. 9:6-11, Eph. 4:14-16, I Thess. 3:11-13, Heb. 6:1-6, II Pet. 1:6-9, 3:18

1. How do we go about growing up Spiritually?

2. What things are evident in the life of a person who is growing Spiritually?

Sept. 29 - Our Earnestness - Deut. 6:1-12, Ps. 119:1-16, Pro. 3:1-13, Phil. 3:13-15

1. What should motivate us to keep the Lord's commandments?

2. How can we "find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man"?



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# BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXX

SEPTEMBER, 2002

NO. 9

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

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OUR MOTTO: Scriptural in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,  
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

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## NO WIND BUT CAN SPEED

It's a fierce north wind that blows today,  
And my whole frame shivers with cold;  
"But ne'er ye mind," saith my soul, "Press on  
Your God your barque will hold."

'Tis a damp east wind that blows today,  
And my heart seems chilled with fear;  
"But rest in the warmth of My love," saith He  
My Saviour, always near.

It's a balmy breeze from the south today,  
I'll rest back for a day of ease;  
"Ah, no," saith the Lord, "'Tis not thus you win  
As you try your Lord to please."

'Tis a stormy wind from the west today  
And the billows rage and roar;  
But I hear Him say, "Brave the storm, my child;  
Some day when your journey's o'er,

You'll see it's ne'er the wind that breaks  
Nor the waves as they toss in foam, -  
It's the set of your sail that speeds you on,  
And no wind but can speed you home."

-Emily R. Moore

Selected by Brother Galen Litfin



## SEPTEMBER 11

The memory of September 11, 2001, is very fresh in the our minds. That event was unlike any other that has ever happened in our memory. It was not only the suddenness of the attack but the utter disregard for the lives of the people involved that so stirred us. While many acts of violence happen every day, they are not so daring, open and so widely destructive. Unbelief was the common reaction at the beginning of the attack. It was thought to be a mistake or pilot error at the beginning, by the time the four planes had done their damage, widespread fear gripped the hearts of people.

The terrible destruction of property and the loss of many lives affected people greatly. Most could not fathom how or why anyone would do such an act. Some were ready to go to war with the enemy, whoever or wherever he might be. Others were so dazed they had no idea what to do. It was a time of rumor and fear. Some realized their utter inability to handle these events by themselves. They sought God. Government officials, who normally keep God out of their public lives, were openly calling upon God in public prayer services. There were many local and national gatherings that implored the help of God in the midst of this crisis. Attendance increased at worship services across the land.

One year later, most have returned to their former lifestyles. They have lost interest in God and godly things as fear has faded. A war against terrorism has been waged. Restrictions are in place for those who fly. Other changes have been made, but for the

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### THE BIBLE MONITOR

### SEPTEMBER 2002

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most part America has returned to the former patterns of work and recreation.

How do Christians view this horrific event? In its magnitude, it affected everyone, believer and non-believer, alike. Hopefully there are lessons that may be learned from this event.

Do we view this as a random act of terrorism, or as a warning from God? In the evil and unfeeling minds of those who seek to control the world by violence and force, this was an important event. They vented their fury at the United States. They were willing to give their lives for their fanatic program. They had no concern for the lives of others. Many of their co-religionists were killed, as death and destruction were general in the areas of attack.

Whatever the message of the terrorists, their means struck at many innocent people. Their act of war was not limited to the battle field. It was aimed at people going about their daily tasks.

Could we think of this action in a deeper way than just as a terrorist attack? Was it a message to the United States and other nations. Was it a message from God? Was He sending a warning that this sinful world needed to repent? Because of His love for the human race, was He allowing a significant number to be destroyed as a warning to the rest of us? The first estimates of the deaths in New York City were in the tens of thousands. Those numbers have been narrowed down to less than three thousand. That is a significant number, but not like first feared. Did God in His love allow this very significant number to perish as a wake-up call to the rest of this world?

At the first it seemed He did get the attention of people. There was an immediate turning to Him in the hour of death and destruction. Prayer meetings were held in public places. Other religious observances were conducted even though it was not politically correct. There was an increase in attendance at places of worship. There was a willingness to speak of God and seek His favor.

That time of reconciliation lasted a very short time. A few were touched enough to make a permanent change in their lives. Most, after a short respite, continued in their previous lifestyles. As we look back a year later, we wonder what might get the undivided attention of the people of this world? Will it take more terrible ter-

rorists' attacks? Or will God conclude the affairs of mankind with the return of Jesus for His own?

As citizens of this world and particularly of the United States, our response should be that of citizens of Heaven. We must remember that as thankful as we are for being a citizen of this country, we have a higher citizenship. Being God's people compels us to place the things of God above our love for this country. While we must continue to pray for our leaders, pay our taxes and obey all the laws, that do not conflict with the Word of God, we must have a desire that is higher than patriotism. By being the best citizens of Heaven, that we can be, we are actually being the best citizens of this world.

Will remembering September 11, 2001, help you to better serve God continually?

M.C.Cook

## **THE FIRST CHURCH CONFERENCE**

Acts 15:13-34

In the midst of a long session of heated discussion concerning the acceptance of Gentiles into the Christian faith without becoming circumcised (and becoming Jewish proselytes), Peter gave a speech that settled the crowd down. Afterwards Paul and Barnabas had a chance to tell about all the miracles and wonders, God had wrought among the Gentiles on their missionary journey. They had a lot to tell about!

Then we see the actual decision-making deliberation beginning to take place in the this passage. Note carefully what happened that brought this very divided meeting to a consensus! Note how the Holy Spirit brought about a resolution to this ordeal!

God used James, the brother of Jesus who later wrote the Epistle of James, to draw up the conclusion of the matter. (I wonder what would have happened if James the Apostle would have still been around.) Note how James approached the matter.

First, James condenses Peter's speech into one sentence. He is basing his conclusion on an experience which Peter and James (at least) were sure was of the Holy Ghost.



Second, James quotes from the prophets. The passage is taken from Amos 9:1-12. That passage declares that there is going to be some heathen in the last days who are going to be called by God's Name.

Third, James declares that God knows what He is doing, and God knew what He was doing ever since the creation of the world. Implied is the fact that we, mere men, do not know everything that God is doing. We see life through our little window so we cannot possibly understand all of God's ways.

Fourth, James then concludes that "we trouble them not." If the Holy Spirit can accept the Gentiles without circumcision, then who are we to question God? That's a very good point! We need to be very careful to stay close to God's Word in our requirements within our church—so that we do not lay a heavier burden on people than God does.

There were four things that were so repulsive to all good Jews, that James decided to include them as requirements for the Gentile believers. They were:

- (1) don't eat meats offered to idols,
- (2) abstain from all sorts of sexual sins,
- (3) don't eat meat that wasn't properly bled, and
- (4) don't drink blood.

Note that three of these issues were related to things a person takes into their mouth.

Well, the whole group agreed, and they sent the message with Paul and Barnabas, along with two other respected Brethren from Jerusalem, to confirm their message to the church at Antioch.

**Summary Thought...**Are you willing to be used by the Holy Spirit, whenever He calls you, in bringing about His will—and announcing it to a group of people? This could well be to a church, or a District Meeting, or a General Conference, or just a group of people who are discussing things together. God needs specially dedicated people who will calmly and reasonably proclaim His will to the Congregation at crucial times. Will you purpose to be among God's chosen for this special task?

Respectfully Submitted,  
Brother Robert S. Lehigh

## KENYA KNOTES

July 18, 2002

I made french toast for everyone with three eggs this morning. I forgot we had used eggs in the lasagna last night! The Noeckers left for Eldoret around 9:00 A.M. Our children acted as if they did not know what to do by themselves. Finally they went outside with their daddy so that I could catch up on e-mail and study for Women's Bible Study this afternoon. Jeremiah painted the fence around the graves on the compound, and the boards for the fascia on the new house. He also repainted the bump on the road by our drive. But then it started to rain, and he had to quit. It rained really hard as we were having the women's meeting in our tent church. I had to talk loud to be heard. There was a big crowd — at least twenty women. I put the clothes back out after the rain because Gilbert said it would not rain until later. An hour later I rushed out and took the still-wet clothes off, because it was pouring again. I made roast, mashed potatoes, and cooked carrots for supper. Rays got home at 6:30, just as supper was nearly ready. Another full day!

July 19, 2002

We got up this morning to find out that we had had an unwelcome visitor again last night. Someone stole four of the six boards that Jeremiah painted yesterday for the fascia of the new house. Those were some big boards too! The girls think Merle needs to come over here to catch the thieves! I guess they think we need some teenage boys to set up traps and sit up all night. Ray used to let just anything from the new house set out, and no one bothered it. This all started since we are here. Ray asked Jeremiah where he is keeping the stuff!!

We had Paul's Bakery pizza for dinner, and Cheryl made gourmet potatoes and meatballs for supper. She got some Del Monte peaches yesterday and made a dessert with them. It was good. The peaches are not quite like ours at home, but I was excited to see we could even get peaches here. I like bananas and pineapples, but there are not many desserts you can make with them. I made snicker doodle cookies this afternoon and they were good. I am becoming used to the different taste of the food here. I am not sure if it is the flour or what. But now I do not taste it anymore.

The guys worked on putting up the holding tank in the new



house. The masons finished the ends of the peaks on the house. Around 7 the leadership had a meeting here. They started it in the church and when it got dark they ended up on the verandah. We tried to keep the children from hooting and hollering in the house. The meeting was over just before 9. Ray is going to sit up and watch for the thieves tonight, but he is going to watch from the livingroom. Oh, the fun in Kenya!

July 20, 2002, Saturday

It is always a beautiful day in Kenya! I forgot to mention a few things about the Noeckers trip to Eldoret the other day. They ordered roofing tile for the new house. When they were on their way home they passed an awful accident. Cheryl and a couple of the girls actually saw the corpses by the road. It was gory. Edwin (the father of Jeremiah and Tim) was along with them. He was able to make out what was happening. A matatu driver had hit them. The crowd would have killed the driver if they could have, but he was able to get to the police and they protected him. Cheryl said it would take a while to get those sights out of her mind. I do not think the girls fully realized what they saw. They have not said much. Ray and Cheryl went to the creamery in Eldoret. They brought home about a dozen pint boxes of milk. We figured out that it cost actually less than the local milk we buy from the milkman. Anyway, that milk tastes good! I drank several cups of it. I feel bad for the children not getting as much milk here. They do ask for it sometimes, and do not seem to mind the taste. So we are enjoying a little good milk just for drinking.

Ray went to Kitale today to get the brick machine. I guess we are buying it. The people there gave him a chicken. On the way home it laid an egg. Then when it was sitting in the yard with the children all around it, it lay another. It must have been stressed! The second egg was soft-shelled. Noeckers and our children had never seen a soft-shelled egg, so that was exciting for them. Noeckers brought the cycle home from Eldoret the other day. Jeremiah worked on it today. Micaiah has been so excited about it. He has been telling anyone who comes that "My daddy is going to ride that motorcycle." Jeremiah was able to give him and a few others rides around the compound today. I did laundry and we all did some yard work. Hosea's mother (who lives with them, next door) is quite a lady. She is probably fifty to sixty years old, and she



looks like seventy or eighty. She came over to show Cheryl how to weed around the banana trees without getting rid of the old pieces of trees. She said it would be vitamins for the soil. For the past day or so I have been watching her over at their house. A tree fell down and she has been chopping it up! She is a worker, and she loves to work! Earlier in the week she came across the yard with a huge gunny sack of beans and stalks on her head. She had been working in the shamba and she was as happy as a lark! She is a dear old lady!

The little girls got into something just before supper. They said it was a black bug. We thought it almost looked like thistles, but the pricks really stuck in their skin. Veronica had several patches that Cheryl had to scrape out with a knife. They were all pretty paranoid!

July 21, 2002, Sunday

We were at Makutano today for church. The service was a real blessing. Henry is the newly appointed Sunday School teacher. He did a really good job. He seems to have an understanding of Scripture better than others here. Jeremiah had prepared to preach this morning, but then he and Ray thought it would be better for him to observe them, since he is preaching every Sunday evening. So I thought he would be sitting with me and the children. It really took me off guard when he agreed to go ahead and preach this morning. Matthias was sleeping in my arms and I had to go put him in bed so I could attend the other children. But the service went really well. Jeremiah preached on "Gratefulness".

As we sat there in church I could not help but think about the nature surrounding us. As we sat there under the tent, a couple little birds were hopping around in the grass just outside the tent. As we sang, those little songbirds just sang and sang. When we stopped, they were quiet. It was sweet to watch them. The chickens, of course, were wandering around the tent as usual. As we knelt down in the red dirt to pray, a cricket had to jump to keep from being squashed! Those things keep the children from getting bored in church, too. I guess that can be good or bad! The Noecker family went to Kaptalamwa in the cruiser. They had Phanuel and Esther's family with them. One of Phanuel's girls got sick, so that provided some excitement! The service here this evening was well attended. Florence came to visit a while this evening. Peter and

Edwin are going to be our watchmen tonight!

July 21, 2002 - Jeremiah

I have said it before and I will say it again, "The highs here are higher and the lows are lower." Take today for instance. Today was a very good day. I was blessed even though I failed to go to church expecting a blessing. (Thank God for your unmerited favor.)

The leaders here have appointed a Bible Study teacher to teach every Sunday. Before we had a different teacher every Sunday. Also we have begun using the Lesson sheet provided by the Bible Study Committee. It has been about three weeks now and I think people are appreciating it. I know I really sense that it adds a spirit of continuity to the service from week to week, as you can imagine.

Henry Otoro is the Sunday School teacher now and he did very well. The message I preached on this morning was "Gratefulness...paying my debt of love out of the first-fruits of all my increase." Then tonight I have started a series of Doctrinal messages. Tonight we discussed One God and the Trinity. Had a good showing at both services today.

I hope not to preach here twice every time. I will be expected to preach whenever I go to another church for morning service and I will bring a Doctrinal message here every Sunday night. So every other Sunday I will be preaching twice. PLEASE PRAY...

It seems funny to be writing this now we are done with everything and will be heading to bed in a little while and you there have just finished Church in the morning. I am glad today is finished. It seems to me that this blessed day is anything but a day of rest sometimes. After church I was able to effectively fill up and least two days next week in less than twenty minutes. Can that be some kind of record?

#### IN OTHER NEWS

When Ray's went to Eldoret, as Debra mentioned, on Thursday they brought the cycle home. Miciah was VERY IMPRESSED. Saturday I replaced the bearings in the front wheel. Also I had to get the headlight welded and put on. It turns out that I forgot to put on something so Ray had to take the light off and put it back on. Edwin was very pleased to have the cycle today. Some times he finds it difficult to find a connecting ride to Kaplami so he is forced to wait



for one. Also he uses it to collect the members for church. Hapa Kenya sometimes?

We have been having things disappear, as I think you have been told. Well, one of the brothers brought their battery here tonight to have it charged. Ray told him that he would let it outside tonight as bait. Peter (Hosea's brother) said "I will here to watch". It was his battery. I heard this and thought they were kidding each other, but about 7:00 Peter and Edwin showed up, smiled at Ray knowing and went out. I think they are outside watching now. I guess Hosea is really upset by the disappearings and I think this is part of the plan. Well, I guess I will go. They want to have the cake that Debra made, before sending the children to bed. Till we type again. JJ

Oh, I have an update on the plumbing but no time now. So I will give it later.

July 22, 2002, Monday

The mystery is getting thicker on our night time thief! Peter and Edwin stayed only until 10:00 last night. The silly thing they did was to leave Peter's battery charger (the bait) sitting on the porch of the guest house. We did not find that out until this evening when Peter came for a meeting. Then we figured out that the battery was **STOLEN!** We figured out from that that the thief came between 10:00 and midnight. Ray went down at midnight to lock the guesthouse and the battery was gone. This is frustrating because it is getting expensive. (Ray just figured out yesterday that he lost his chisel set when the planes were stolen two weeks ago. We decided that because we have always kept the door locked since then. Anyway, it is giving us some mystery!

Jeremiah ran a bunch of errands this morning in Makutano. He is taking over dealing with the people so that Ray can work more full time on the house. Helen (a single mother from church) came today, asking for work. Cheryl had her scrub up all the children's dirty shoes. Those shoes looked brand new! She also had her wash their bed quilt. It was dripping on the line at noon, and by bedtime it was ready to put back on the bed! The leaders here had a meeting at Hosea's. They are starting to meet there since Jeremiah is allergic to the guesthouse. I made tea to take to them at 8:30. It was neat to see inside that house over there. I always



wondered what it looked like! It seems really big, at least in the dark. Phaniel left his bike on the guesthouse porch as bait tonight. Our guys think it is too obvious, and that our thief will not be here tonight. But we are surrounded with guards tonight! Most of the leaders are out there hiding! We had to think, if we were in America, we would be scared stiff. But here it is just kind of amusing. The people do not have guns here; that's part of the reason. The leaders told us to go to bed quick so our thief will come. I guess they do not want to have to wait too long and get cold! Excitement!

I forgot to add this to yesterday's journal. Ray went to Makutano to look for the kind of pipe that Jeremiah needed. His one long piece had been stolen. I do not even know why he looked here. He has never been able to get it here before. At first the woman told him she did not have any, but Ray could see she did, so he pointed it out to her. He bought it and brought it home. He said, "This is the only piece of 3/4 inch steel pipe in Makutano." The part that really got us was this. The guys recognized the pipe because the one end was full of dirt. We bought that pipe twice! Ray wants to go back and ask the woman who sold it to her!

July 24, 2002, Wednesday

I did laundry today, and we swept and washed all the floors, so it was a busy day. Jeremiah was gone on Church work this morning for a while and got back as we finished dinner. At 1:15 Emelda came with Frank and Cadelda, wondering if we were going to pray for Roselyn's baby. We did not know anything about it. I guess they just know that when a boy is eight days and a girl is fourteen days, the women go visit the mother and baby. I said I would go and twenty minutes later Jeremiah took all of us in the cruiser. I took Matthias with me, because he was awake. Let me tell you, I had a real jolt to go visit that sweet women in her circumstances. This is her third baby, a girl after two boys. I knew her from before, and knew she had a rough life. The house itself was not bad for Kenya. It had several rooms, but was very dark and gloomy. The only thing bright about the place was Roselyn's happy face. She was so glad to see us, and Emelda and I were the only women who came for the little service. She and the children wore raggy clothes, and the poor tiny baby wore only a very dirty sweater, besides being wrapped in a worn, stained blanket. She "testified" about the events of the birth. Her husband works nights and had not gotten home

though it was morning. She delivered the baby by herself in her house and took care of everything. She said, "I could not have done it without God's help", (which I firmly believe). Later she took the baby to the doctor and found out the baby weighs 2 kilo, which is less than 4 1/2 pounds. She was full term, but I wonder how well Roselyn eats. I knew her husband used to be a drunk, and wondered about it. I had my answer before the end of the visit. The three of us sang a song and I had a devotion. As I was talking her husband came in quietly and sat down. He acted normal enough, I thought, though I do not know him very well. I felt funny talking with a man in the room, but I did not think he was a Christian. Emelda prayed for the baby, and then said that "maybe her daddy would like to say something." I do not think he even heard, for he was in the process of standing up. He just could not get his balance, and kept sitting down again. He finally staggered down the hall, while we sat there in a daze. Roselyn just sat there and smiled. I just hoped he went to bed and did not get up until we were gone. I looked at my watch; it was forty-five minutes before I had told Jeremiah we would be ready to go! I felt a little nervous, remembering that he could be violent in this state. Then I just felt pity. To imagine living with a husband like that! I felt extremely sheltered and pampered. I also thanked God for my husband. Emelda told me that Roselyn's husband has a good job, but the family goes in rags because he drinks up the money. And to watch Roselyn's beaming face. Her oldest son is four and has malaria. She afforded one of the medicines the doctor prescribed, but not the other. We went on visiting until Jeremiah arrived. She thanked us profusely for coming. I took the paper from the doctor and wished I could change more for the poor woman. I had read Psalms 46 to her, and was confident she better understood it than I did. That woman was a real blessing to me. Sorry this commentary got so long!

July 25, 2002, Thursday

I forgot to say that Gilbert's mother passed away on Monday evening. She had cancer and they knew it was coming. We heard today that burial will be on Saturday. This day has been rather cool, but still it was a sunny day. I spent a lot of time at the computer, it seemed. Cheryl worked hard to wash up the cruiser, inside and out. Then the electricity went off around 11:00 A.M. She had



to have the guys bring down the generator so she could finish her job. I used some of our aged bananas to make banana bread after lunch when the children went to bed. We had a women's meeting and Florence lead the teachings. I wasn't there long because the bread was still in the oven and then Matthias needed me. But there was a good group of women again today. The electricity came on at 6:00 P.M. just in time for supper and the evening. Cheryl made cabbage soup and a fruit cocktail jello for supper. We got rain in the early evening and everyone is chilled. We are putting on sweatshirts and shoes tonight!

July 26, 2002

Jeremiah needed plumbing supplies in Kitale, so we went today. We decided to take the children along. It went pretty good. Jeremiah came to Suam until I was done. The old Indian man that owns the store (I presume) gave the children each a sucker. They really enjoyed them. We got home about noon and heard about another baby that had just died. The mother is Carol, a new attendee that I have not met. Her eleven month son, Derrick, died this morning. It sounds as if he had malaria and just dehydrated. Sometimes they wait so long to get medical attention. It really put a cloud over our day here. Some of the men from church came to talk about the funeral arrangements for that baby tonight. Jeremiah decided he is going to go to Gilbert's mother's funeral tomorrow. There has been too many deaths recently!

July 27, 2002, Saturday

At 3:15 A.M. there was a rattle on the window in the children's room. That was Jeremiah's wake-up call!!! They got the wrong window, but I was glad. We would probably have jumped out of our skin if they had done that on our window! They had to catch the matatu to Kakemega (and beyond) at 3:30. It was a long uneventful day for me. Ray and Cheryl took a little trip for their day off, and picked up some lumber he had ordered. Jeremiah got home at 7:30 this evening. He really enjoyed his day and wished he had remembered the camera. In Western province there are huge boulders and the country is beautiful. The meatball parmiguana I made for supper was still warm when he got home, and he really enjoyed it. He did get one meal at about 2:00 P.M. and he said he ate a LOT of ugoli because he was so hungry! I had to let the clothes hang



out all night on the verandah because we got rain this afternoon and it stayed really damp.

July 28, 2002, Sunday

Today we had planned to go to Chepcornishwa (Kapcornishwa according to Micaiah!). We took the 100L barrel full of water because it is so dry down there and they have to go a long way to get water. Jeremiah about croaked at all the people that piled in to go along from here! I am sure the Pokots from here enjoy worshipping with those from Chepcornishwa occasionally. There were a lot of people standing in the back of the cruiser! Church did not start until 10:45, and we had two interpreters, so it was a long service. At 1:00 P.M., during Jeremiah's sermon, I had to go out. The two younger ones were fussy and that place was packed. (We took five boards from the top of the cruiser to make more benches for sitting.) Finally, at 1:45 church was over. They did the greeting outside in Pokot style — which is really different. I forgot how distinctly different the Pokot people are! We really enjoyed the day of Pokot singing, fellowship and visiting. It was a learning experience for our children, too. It was their first experience in a mud-stick church! Micaiah was sitting by the wall—mistake! He just wanted to pick at it continually! About halfway through the service Hosanna was looking down at the floor with a funny look on her face. She looks at me and says, "The floor is DIRT! It's like outside!" I just had to hide my smile and urge to giggle. After visiting a while we walked down to Francis' house and visited while the women made the meal. We finally had our turn to eat. It must have been around 3:00 P.M. Our children were filthy dirty, especially Jerusha. I gave up trying to keep them clean. The dirt there is really sandy and they played in it most of the day. We really had a fun (though dirty!) day. Our load of people sang all the way there and all the way home again. Jeremiah told the people at church that no one knows how to sing like they do. They really liked that!

Noeckers stayed at Makutano and went to a service at Carol's house (the one whose baby just died). We got home at 5:30.

July 29, 2002

We got up at 3:10 and rushed to get ready to go! We took Micaiah, Jerusha and Matthias. They all were very cheerful and excited about going, even so early in the morning. We went to

Carol's house where we picked up most of our load of people. Our family was crammed into the front of the cruiser, but the back was even more crammed full of people. They put the little casket on top of the cruiser and we took off shortly after 4:00 A.M. The trip went well. Jeremiah became tired driving and asked them to sing. They sang, and that was fun. For fun they sang songs in Swahili, Pokot, Turkana and Luo. Our children slept. Jerusha was sitting on the floor between my feet and gave my left ankle a real kink. Micaiah soon woke and tried to sing along with them. All day he was trying to sing some of the more familiar Swahili songs. He really likes to sing.

We were able (thank God for the cruiser!) to drive right up to the home of Carol's husband. The husband and father's home is the burial ground. We got there at 7:15 and people were waiting for us. They brought chairs from all over the countryside for seats, and a lot of neighbor women came for the day. Other than that, the funeral consisted mostly of the group we took in the cruiser. The mother shed tears a couple times, but very few else seemed emotional at all. They are so used to death, it seems. I probably cried the most. They opened the casket next to the house and soon started to dig the grave. Several youth from our church here went along to dig the grave. I took the children to the cruiser and fed them bananas and part of a cookie at 9:00 A.M. Around 9:30 they brought breakfast for us. Jeremiah told me earlier not to eat anything, so I would enjoy the ugoli when it was served. We had maize and beans (cooked and fried, I think) and bread and tea. We barely made a dent in those bowls of maize and beans! But the chai (tea) sure was good!

Around 11:00 we had the little service. Peter was the MC and Jeremiah had a little sermon. It was a real opportunity, because a lot of the people there were Catholic and/or not saved. After that they did the little processional to the grave, singing all the way. Phanuel did the graveside service. It was in Swahili so I do not know what he said. They let the little casket down in the hole with ropes and sang as they covered the grave. Then they did the singing escort of the family back to the hut which was the grandmother's home.

At about 1:00 they brought out dinner. (They were really punctual!) It was ugoli, beef and broth, and scuma (greens). It was a



good meal! The greens had a delicious seasoning and the beef was really good for here. (Florence says it is always good in Western Province.) It was fun and funny to show the children how to eat Kenyan food — without spoons!! Micaiah took right on to using his ugoli as a spoon and said the food was good. Jerusha was hilarious. She first put a bit of ugoli in her mouth, then immediately sputtered it back out. Thankfully, the cooks were not watching, and Hosea and Florence were just amused. She held a little ball of it in her hand, and decided it must be PLAYDOUGH! She put it on the table and smashed it with her little fist. I about died with laughing and I think Jeremiah was embarrassed. One of the servers gave her a little bowl of beef and broth and I showed her how to dip her ugoli and bite it. She caught on and liked it. She never did like the scuma though. We left at about 2:00 P.M., leaving Carol, her husband and child there. We were home around 5:30, after dropping everyone off at their homes. The children had baths and we were all glad to go to bed.

July 30, 2002

I felt really swamped this morning, but I was so grateful to Cheryl for what she did for me yesterday. She washed our clothes and swept our rooms, besides making supper for me last evening. By noon I felt together again. This was our day off, but we surely did not want to go away, after the last two days. Today was so damp and chilly that we had the children wear shoes and sweatshirts. I guess this is Kenya's coolest season. We got rain and tried to keep the doors shut this evening. Some of Cheryl's girls are getting sick with croup and colds.

July 31, 2002, Wednesday

Jeremiah thought he was going to finish the plumbing today and was hoping for no leaks. JOKE! He said it is almost like a sprinkler system. And he tried to be so careful. He really is looking forward to doing electrical wiring, he said, because it cannot leak!! Ray was gone to Kitale a lot of the day. We did laundry and housework. This afternoon when the children were napping we had a big rainstorm with thunder. It POURED for a long time. We had one bucket and five or six containers sitting around the house to catch all the drips. In the kitchen water ran in a stream down the wall beside the stove! We all were chilled. I made Popover Pizza and Spinach for supper. Cheryl made a fruit salad for supper again. It



had grapes, mangoes, pineapples, papaya and bananas in it. It was delicious! We have had it (without grapes) three times in the last week, but the bowl was scraped clean. We just chop up the fruit; we do not even add sugar. YUM! I am not missing peaches and black sweet cherries so much with this to eat!

July 31, 2002

Hello, everyone this is Jere. It's been awhile since I wrote last. Seems that I have been very busy lately.

I have tried to take over for Ray in the church work so that he can focus on the house more. So I have no day that I spend only working on the house without interruption. I really do not mind though because I know it frees up Ray and he is making really good headway. He has all the tin nailed up on the one side and all the boards up that hold the tile on. (I was sidetracked again. This morning four men came to request assistance on a water project. By the time I got the men told of the proper procedure I then went to the house to work a little then it was time for lunch. Well I am finally back and it is now 4:45.) Today Ray has been working on the culvert for the driveway to the new house. Now on to my report.

Last time I wrote I was telling you about the plumbing in the last bathroom. Well, it was about as bad as I expected. I started out with about nine or ten leaks. Mbaya sana! (Very Bad) Well, I spent a couple of days stopping those and was very sidetracked with other things. Well, I was stopped again and now it is Wednesday night. It has been probably a couple of weeks since the guest bathroom has been done. Lately I have been working on the supply line and installing the pressure tank, the emergency storage tank and the hot water heater. Finally today I tied the whole system together and at 1:00 I connected a hose to the supply line and turned it on. I must say I have been senselessly hopeful for no leaks. After turning on the hose I climbed up the ladder to where all the tanks are and it was not quite a sprinkler system but almost. I had two unions leaking; they were easily stopped. Then I noticed that the bottom of the storage tank where the line comes out was leaking. Also where I had used some close nipples were leaking in about three or four places. To add the topping on the cake, where the elements on the water heater screw in were leaking. I am hoping that it is around the threads and not where they welded the

fittings into the tank. It was about 5:00 and I tore into the line and got it apart where the close nipples were leaking. I am going to try to use rope and Teflon tape to make the threads seal. (That is how the fundies here seal all the factory threads.) (Fundies — pronounced with a u-sound as in you, and the i-is pronounced long e). Enough on plumbing.

Ray poured the culvert for the new driveway yesterday. That like everything else has a story, which I would like to give in brief. First Ray had applied to have the drive come straight off the road to the house like the other compound does. But the man in the office for that department said that he had to use the road (a glorified path really) that ran beside the new house. Well he had men working to direct the route over to that road. However, either the man died or was transferred because the new guy came along and said we cannot use that other road, we need to put in our own culvert and own driveway. Hapa Kenya.

I will tell you how I spent the day, Saturday, July 27, on public transport and all that and also how my birthday went on Monday, but that will have to wait until next time. Till next time. JJ

## **IF THIS WERE D-DAY, ARE YOU GOOD ENOUGH TO GO?**

Suppose this were D-day, the day you Die or the day that Jesus comes to Deliver us out of this world to live with Him. Have you been good enough to go? Maybe it's time to stop and take an inventory, to check up on the way you have been living.

Have you been having a daily prayer and Bible reading time? Have you been attending church regularly? Have you been tithing? Have you been visiting the widows and orphans?

Have you been staying away from places that could be a bad influence or temptation to you? Have you been listening to only Christian radio stations? Have you been careful in the types of reading material you use?

Are you walking humbly? Do you thankfully accept everything that happens in your life? Do you have a steady supply of patience and a heart empty of anger? Do you obey everything God has asked you to do in His Word?

What about your outside? Do you dress modestly, plainly, and



not according to the fashions of the world? Sisters, are you wearing a proper prayer covering?

Do you abide by all the decisions made by the church of which you are a member? Do you submit to those in authority over you? Do you obey the laws of the land?

Husbands, have you been a Godly and spiritual leader in your home? Do you have your children in proper submission? Wives, are you in willing submission to your husband?

Have you been good enough to go? If so, then you may be as the scribes and the Pharisees, for they, too, were good men, obeying the law precisely, wearing the right clothes, saying the right things, doing exactly what they believed God required of them. If you are good enough to go, if you are a 'good Christian', then you might not make it. If you are good enough to go, then you need to get on your knees and cry out for God to have mercy.

You may be **good**, but you can never be **good enough**.

"But we are all as an unclean thing, and **all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags**;" Isa. 64:6a (emphasis added)

Only by the blood of Jesus, as your covering of righteousness, can you be good enough to go. Before that point; **and after that point**, there is nothing you can do to make yourself good enough. As you read the above questions, and knew in your heart that you could say, "yes" to most of them, if you felt satisfied and safe because you could say, "yes", then you may be resting on your good works as a Christian to make you good enough for heaven. It will not be enough. Forever and always, your only hope is the mercy of God who sees you as perfect through the blood of Jesus. You may have known this in your mind, but if you are still striving to 'be good', then you have not realized it in your spirit.

When you truly realize your unworthy condition before God, when you understand that no matter how good a Christian you are you will never attain to God's standard of holiness, when you realize that only His grace is sufficient to cover your sin through the blood of Jesus, then you will not be concerned about being able to answer yes to the above questions. When you consider your own righteous works, you will bow your head in shame, for it is indeed a shame for us to ever think our good Christian actions will approve us before Him. "Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are



ye now made perfect by the flesh?" Gal. 3:3. Our own good Christian actions will only be as spots on garments made white through His blood.

The following thoughts are paraphrased from a sermon I once heard: "Good works are a result of God's grace in our lives, enabling us to do them from a heart of love; which works should cause people to look back at God and say 'What a glorious God he serves!', rather than looking at us and saying how good we are."

If you are trying to be good to please God so that you can go to heaven, your good works are for your benefit, for your glory. If your good works flow out of an humbled and grateful heart desiring to be of service to the Savior because of His mercy and love by which you have been promised heaven, and because of the magnificence of the One Who resides there, then God is glorified. "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." Phil. 2:13. "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a **good work** in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:" Phil. 1:6.

I was reminded recently that there are two sides to the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. As a Christian who has left behind the evil ways of the world, you may still be eating from the good side of the tree, being a good Christian by your own strength, from the knowledge you have of what it means to be good. Whether you eat from the evil side or the good, you are still eating from the tree of death, rather than from the Tree of Life.

Jesus is that Tree of Life. Dear Christian, give up your good ways, and find Life. The ruler who came to Jesus asked what he must do to inherit eternal life. After hearing that he had **kept all the law**, Jesus told the ruler (in part) to 'sell all that thou hast' and 'come, follow me'. "And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich." Luke 18:23. Are you rich in good Christian works? "And when Jesus saw that he was very sorrowful, he said, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!" Luke 18:24.

Sell the riches of your good works and stand before Him as you really are — a Christian, wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind and naked. (Rev. 3:17) Repent of the 'good', and just allow Jesus to live in you and through you. Partake only of the Tree of

Life, learn to follow Jesus, learn to sit at His feet and listen to His Spirit. Let the good that you do be only the good of Jesus working through your life. Only as your good works come from the Tree of Life will they be able to produce life.

So if this were D-day, would you be good enough to go? I hope you can say, "yes", not checking to see if you've been good enough, but because of "...being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of glory of God." Rom. 5:1-2 "For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith." Gal. 5:5

"Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every **good work** to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen." Heb. 13:20-21

For Him,  
Sister Arlene Stamy  
McClave, CO

## IN TRUST WITH THE GOSPEL

"For our exhortation was not of deceit, nor of uncleanness, nor in guile: But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts." I Thess. 2:3-4.

"Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful." I Cor. 4:2.

The Apostle Paul was a great example to all of us today that have been put in trust with the gospel. He preached the Word: in its purity and in its fullness. He did not use deceit or uncleanness or guile. He was open-faced with all men. "What you saw was what you got." No one ever had to wonder if his life was different when he went where nobody knew him. He did not use "cunningly devised fables" (II Peter 1:16). He felt no need to trick people into believing the gospel, or to coerce them. The gospel was true, in his eyes, and the Holy Ghost was able to do the persuading. He did

not endeavor to please men. "...if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ." (Galatians 1:10) He was a steward that was put in trust with the gospel. Stewards are required to be found faithful.

Paul sought to please God rather than men. God is a God of truth and requires that His servants be truthful. If we are not sincere, we cannot be of service to God. If we are not truthful, we cannot please God.

As Christians, we should have an aim to please God, just like Paul. He desired to remain true to God, to be sincere, and to do everything according to God's Word. Those who teach and preach God's Word have been committed to a sacred trust. Paul told Timothy to "...keep that which is committed to thy trust." (I Tim. 6:20) As parents we have a sacred trust in our children. May God help us to see that we have to be good stewards of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul said in Colossians 1:25, "Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God." It is not easy. It requires someone who is dedicated and determined and full of the Holy Ghost and fire. It requires someone who does not hold grudges, who does not seek revenge, who loves the souls of mankind over his own life. It requires someone, as Paul said in I Corinthians 2:2, "...determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified." The gospel, Jesus Christ and Him crucified is all we need to proclaim. As Paul says in I Corinthians 15:3, "...how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: and that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time." (verses 3-8) Paul was a witness of the Saviour. John 20:21 says (and these are the words of Jesus), "...Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you."

We have been chosen, called, and entrusted with the gospel. We must therefore use our talents to the honor and glory of God. We must then trust Him, in all His providence, to carry it through.



Philippians 1:6 tells us that we can be "...confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."

Brother Lynn H. Miller  
70 Round Barn Road  
Newmanstown, PA 17073-9162

## LEAD ME IN A PLAIN PATH

"Teach me thy way, O LORD, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies." Psalm 27:11

"When I therefore was thus minded, did I use lightness (fickleness)? or the things that I purpose, do I purpose according to the flesh, that with me there should be yea, yea and nay, nay?" II Corinthians 1:17

We are not suggesting that David observed the plain (without outward adornment) way of life. In fact, David was not a Christian. But his plea to the Lord is applicable to all saints of all times.

The definition of "plain" as we wish to use it in this article is "clear or concise." In our day it is very popular to allow each man (and woman) to decide for themselves what Scripture means and how it is to be applied to their lives. There is a kernel of truth in this type of thinking. We are each accountable to God for how we live out the Scriptures and, ultimately, not to man. But think with us, if you will, as we explore the danger in this type of thinking.

First the Psalmist pleads, "Teach me thy way, O Lord." When we study the Scriptures are we truly seeking to know the way of the Lord or are we attempting to twist Holy Scripture to make it fit into our preconceived ideas? Over the years there have been individuals who claim God gave them direct revelations through dreams, visions and even talking directly to Him. Most of these "revelations" were directly opposed to the commonly accepted understanding of Scripture. Through "diligently searching the Scriptures" they verified their "new Light" and often gained many followers.

Next the Psalmist pleads for God to "lead me in a plain path." How do we as individuals discern what a clear or concise path is? At this time God did use dreams, visions and even talking directly to individuals. In the New Testament era the Holy Spirit was given.

This is **always** our guide to truth. Does the Holy Spirit lead individuals into different truths? To explore this we turn to our verse out of II Corinthians.

In this verse the Apostle Paul was defending his decision to make a change in his travel agenda. In the verses following it he made a spiritual application. The Apostle Paul asks the Corinthians if he used lightness in his decision. Lightness can be interpreted as fickleness, according to Strong's. When we "make a change in direction" spiritually speaking are we being fickle (not consistent)? Many changes in church order have come about because an individual "received new light" and shared it with others who accepted it as Gospel truth. They, of course, found Scripture to back up their thoughts. Perhaps more alarming is the fact that an individual "discovered **new doctrine** in Holy Scripture" and attained a following.

Paul asks an important question, "The things that I purpose, do I purpose according to the flesh?" The Bible teaches that the flesh wars against the Spirit. There is in each of us the fleshly desire to do our own thing. We do not normally like others telling us what we can or cannot do. It is often very difficult to submit to someone else. Contrary to days gone by, those with a critical spirit are seen, more often than not, as those who stand for the teachings of the Church as they were historically understood.

Paul concludes with, "that with me there should be yea, yea, and nay, nay." In other words, Paul would be ambiguous in his speech. Some individuals change opinions and directions as often as they change their garments! These individuals are often leaders with quite a following. We are not speaking specifically about church officials, though they do carry a great responsibility.

The Psalmist ends his thought with the phrase, "because of mine enemies." We use the word "enemies" in a very loose way here meaning those who ridicule us. We believe there are degrees of enemies. First, those who oppose the Scriptural teachings of salvation. Then those who differ on how salvation is applied. This includes, but is not limited to, how we live out Scriptural principles and teachings. When we are not clear on what we believe we give "the enemy" an opportunity to bring accusation. If we are not concise in what we say, the real enemy, Satan, will have opportunity to bring about confusion.

May we each desire that God would lead us in a plain path. We will never come to a perfect agreement. Let us beware that our differences do not destroy our witness to the world and those we come into contact with on a daily basis. May we study the Scriptures desiring that God, through the Holy Spirit, would lead us into all truth. May we be willing to set aside selfish desires to be one in the Lord. As Paul says in II Corinthians 1:24, "Not for that we have dominion over your faith, **but are helpers of your joy**, for by faith ye stand."

Brother James M. Hite  
816 E. Birch St.  
Palmyra, PA 17078-2704

## BIBLE STORIES

### "WHO TOUCHED ME?"

Matthew 9:18-22, Luke 8:41-48

One day while Jesus was teaching the people, a ruler of the Jews named Jairus fell down at His feet and begged Jesus to come home with him. Jairus had only one little girl about twelve years old, and she had been sick and was about to die. He said, "If you will only come and lay your hand upon her she will live."

The man started for his home, and Jesus and the disciples followed him. They couldn't go very fast because there were so many people crowding along the road wanting to see Jesus. In the crowd of people there was a woman that had a disease that had caused her to bleed for twelve years. She had gone from one doctor to another and had spent everything she had, and still she wasn't any better.

When she heard Jesus was coming, she thought to herself, "I don't want to trouble the Master, but if I can but touch the hem of His garment I will be made whole." As fast as she could she made her way through the crowd of people, and when she came near Jesus she reached out and touched the border of His clothes, and right away she was healed of her bleeding.

Jesus turned around and said, "Who touched me?"

Peter said, "Why Master, there is a multitude around you and why do you say, Who touched me?"



Jesus said, "Somebody touched me for I perceive virtue is gone out of me."

Now when the woman saw that Jesus knew all about her, she was afraid and fell down at His feet and told Him before all the people for what cause she had touched Him and how she was instantly healed. And Jesus said, "Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace."

Let us remember that Jesus doesn't neglect anyone who will come to Him. First we have to get close to Jesus by obeying His words, and then by faith we can reach out and receive the healing power for our poor, sick souls, just as this poor woman did who had been diseased so long.

Brother Rudy Cover

## OBITUARY

### MARY OSBORN

Sister Mary Loretta Osborn was born near Williston, North Dakota, January 26, 1915. She was the daughter of Abraham and Lydia Evalena (Eikenberry) Miller. She departed this life, August 16, 2002, at Modesto, California at the age of 87 years, 6 months and 20 days.

In her youth, the family moved to Anderson, Indiana, where Mary became a charter member of the Dunkard Brethren Church in 1926. A few years later they moved to the Eldorado, Ohio area, where they lived until 1933, when they moved to the Bryan, Ohio area. There she lived until 1963, when she moved to Cherry Valley, California. Mary was an excellent cook and baker. She had worked in a restaurant in West Unity and a bakery in Bryan, Ohio. After moving to California, she had cooked at the San Geronio Pass Memorial Hospital, before becoming the kitchen supervisor at the Hyland, Banning, Convalescent Hospital.

In April 1970, she married Roy Osborn in Cherry Valley, California. They enjoyed over ten years of happy married life in their home in Beaumont, before Roy's death on January 3, 1981. She remained in her home until 1986 when she moved to an apartment in Waterford, California. There she lived until her last illness.

She enjoyed traveling, especially for General Conference and Lovefeasts. She touched many lives in each of the places where she lived. She touched many children's lives as a Sunday School teacher and by sharing gifts.

Her mother died exactly fifty-nine years before Mary, on August 16, 1943. Her father died March 4, 1953. Also preceding her in death were her sister, Gladys Miller; her brothers, Isaac Miller and Paul Miller; two half-sisters, Cora Miller and Mabel Rensberger and her half-brother, Samuel Miller. She is survived by Nieces, Nephews, Cousins and many friends.

Elder Henry Walker, assisted by Brother Rod Renicker, conducted the funeral services at the Salas Brothers Funeral Chapel, Modesto, California on August 21, 2002. Graveside services were conducted by Elder Milton Cook at the Mountain View Cemetery, Beaumont, California, August 22, 2002. Memorial Services were held at the Pleasant Ridge Dunkard Brethren Church on August 25, 2002.

## NEWS ITEMS

### HELP!

The African Mission Board is sending this request for anyone who is interested in helping to complete the house in Kenya. Please respond to Merle Sweitzer at [mandcswtzr@juno.com](mailto:mandcswtzr@juno.com). The need is for volunteers who are capable of painting, installing tile on the floor and installing the ceiling. If you are not skilled and would still like to go, please respond as we may be able to send you with someone who is more skilled. We trust that some will consider going to help. You will be very blessed as you give yourself to help in the field.

In Christ Love,  
Brother Merle E. Sweitzer  
(717) 993-2637

### MC CLAVE, COLORADO

The McClave Congregation welcomes you to our revival meetings, September 1 through 8, 2002, Lord willing. Brother Kevin Funk will be our evangelist. We would appreciate your prayers for

him as he prepares for this ministry, and for our congregation as we prepare our hearts to receive what Jesus has for us.

Sister Arlene Stamy, Cor.

#### WEST FULTON, OHIO

The West Fulton Congregation is looking forward to their revivals the week of September 29 through October 6. Bro. Ray Stuber, from Shrewsbury, Pennsylvania is to be the evangelist. On Sunday, October 6, will be the Harvest Meeting. Services on week nights will start at 7:30 and on Sunday morning at 9:30 and evening at 7:00. Please pray for these meetings. All are welcome to come and worship with us.

Sister Dianne Heisey, Cor.

#### LITITZ, PENNSYLVANIA

The Lititz Congregation plans a revival meeting, October 13 through 20, 2002, 9:30 Sunday mornings, 7:30 each evening, with Bro. Lloyd Lorenz as the speaker. Lovefeast is scheduled for Sunday, October 20. Please remember us in your prayers and attendance.

Sister Arlene Birt, Cor.

#### CARD SHOWER

There will be a card shower for Sister Clara Gunderman for her 100th birthday, October 31.

Clara Gunderman  
22605 County Road 118  
Goshen, IN 46528

Sister Ruth Wilson

#### THANK YOU

On behalf of the Brookville, Ohio Clothes Distribution Center, we wish to express our appreciation to the Dunkard Brethren young people for their helping hands on Tuesday, June 11. Nearly one hundred came during Conference, to sort, bag and bale over two hundred bags of clothing for poor folks overseas. Bless each of you for your willing hearts. Come again when your Conference rotates to Southwestern Ohio.

Gerald C. Wagoner



## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR OCTOBER 2002

Oct. 6 - Affections That Yoke Us Apart From Christ - II Cor. 6:11-7:1

1. What is it in the nature of a believer, that demands separation from the unholy?
2. Salvation in Jesus Christ means that we share the Father's life, but what will cause us to enter fully into the Father's love and fellowship?

Oct. 13 - Paul's Heart of Love for the Corinthians - II Cor. 7:2-16

1. Paul was greatly encouraged by the church at Corinth, so why did he fear that they wouldn't receive him?
2. How did they respond to Paul's first letter to them, and was his boasting an accurate assessment of their situation?

Oct. 20 - Motivating to Give - II Cor. 8:1-15

1. Paul taught them that giving was based on a debt they owed, but how did he teach them that more importantly it was an act of grace?
2. What does it say about a church if they don't give generously?

Oct. 27 - The Trustworthiness of Paul's Companions - II Cor. 8:16-24

1. If we are faithful with the giving and handling of the Lord's money, but have no burden for the lost, where does that leave us?
2. What is the significance of a partner or fellow helper when it comes to the work of the Lord?

## YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR OCTOBER 2002

Oct. 6 - Our Eagerness - Mark 10:13-22, I Cor. 15:1-10, Acts 13:38-44, Acts 17:16-34

1. As adults our eagerness often comes from wrong motives, so how do we acquire the innocence and sincerity of a child?
2. Why do the things of this world hold so much attraction for us, when we have in our possession things of eternal value?

Oct. 13 - Mysteries - Jer. 12:1-4, John 3:8-15, Rom. 11:33-36, I Cor. 15:51-58, Eph. 5:30-32

1. How do we discern the deeper things of God?
2. When there are things that remain a mystery, how do we find a peace in our hearts until God chooses to reveal it to us?

Oct. 20 - Little Evils - Pro. 6:6-23, Ec. 10:1-20, I Cor. 5:6-8

1. What seven things does the Lord hate?
2. Can you think of an experience in your life in which the principle of a little leaven, became a reality?

Oct. 27 - Perilous Times - Gen. 6:1-13, II Tim. 3:1-7

1. Can you identify conditions in Noah's day that are similar to our day?
2. Why is it so deceptive when people living an evil lifestyle, still try to maintain a form of Godliness?

## DIRECTORY OF BOARDS

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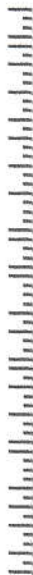


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# BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXX

OCTOBER, 2002

NO. 10

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

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OUR MOTTO: Scriptural in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,  
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

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## WAIT, AND MURMUR NOT

O troubled heart, there is a home  
Beyond the reach of toil and care;  
A home where changes never come;  
Who would not fain be resting there?

Yet when bowed down beneath the load  
By heav'n allowed, thine earthly lot;  
Look up! thou'lt reach that blest abode,  
Wait, meekly wait, and murmur not.

If in thy path some thorns are found,  
O, think who bore them on his brow;  
If grief thy sorrowing heart has found,  
It reached a holier than thou.

Toil on, nor deem, tho' sore it be,  
One sigh unheard, one pray'r forgot;  
The day of rest will dawn for thee;  
Wait, meekly wait, and murmur not.

-W. H. Bellamy

## LAMENTATION, ACKNOWLEDGMENT, AND CONFESSION

Reading the Lamentations of the Prophet Jeremiah, we are struck by the deep sorrow that the condition of the people caused Jeremiah. He had warned them repeatedly throughout his long prophetic career that they must get right with God. They had failed to heed his sage advice. Now they were suffering the consequences.

Those consequences were severe. About one hundred and fifty years previously, Judah had witnessed the fall of Israel. Israel had totally disregarded the ways of God after the division following the death of Solomon. Despite the efforts of several godly prophets, they had continued in deep sin and disregard for God. God allowed them to feel the power of the Assyrians. This should have been a lesson to Judah.

Judah did not profit from that lesson. They continued in the same ways that had brought judgment upon Israel. God sent several prophets to call them to repentance. Jeremiah wept at the people's condition. Josiah had been the last good king of Judah. After his reformatory efforts brought a slight return to God, there had been a continual decline. Finally, God allowed the power of Nebuchadnezzar to be unleashed upon the people of Judah.

Nebuchadnezzar had unleashed his terrible wrath and power upon Judah. He had conquered them and carried away the best

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### THE BIBLE MONITOR

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of the people to Babylon. When his puppet king rebelled against him, he unleashed his full fury upon Jerusalem and Judah. The Temple was destroyed. The city walls were knocked down. The men of Judah's army were killed or led away as slaves. The women had been raped. Their homes had been destroyed or given to others. The inhabitants who were not carried away or killed were left in very desperate straits. They were forced to buy their water and wood. The things that had been theirs for the using before were not available to them. With battles being fought in the land and the farmers being called to the army, there was a scarcity of food. With the lack of food, disease became prevalent. Without proper farming methods, various pests began to overtake the land. Jeremiah had much to lament over as he watched these difficult times.

During his ministry, Jeremiah had foreseen and warned of this terrible time to come. Now, as one of those who was left in the land he could see and feel the condition of the people. He could well have said that he had told them so, but he sought a deeper lesson than that from their present situation.

His hope was that the people would acknowledge that their sins had been the cause of their terrible suffering. He wanted them to acknowledge that they had strayed far from the ways of God.

Acknowledgment is the first step towards approaching God. With a glimmer of faith that God will respond to our cry, we must acknowledge that we have sinned. We must realize we are accountable for our choices. If we choose to ignore God and His ways then we must face the consequences of that choice. In our daily life we often are able to escape the consequences of our actions. Often remedies are found for erroneous actions. With God, we remain liable for what we have done. He calls for acknowledgment of our wrong choices and actions. We can lament our situation only so long, then we must seek out the underlying cause. To continue to lament when acknowledgment is needed will produce no worthwhile results. We will only become more depressed.

Acknowledgment will lead us to confession of our sins. God

wishes for us to study and meditate upon our lives and lifestyles and be willing to confess where we have done wrong. God wants this for us not to destroy or ridicule us, but to bring improvement in our lives. God's severity will ultimately work for our good. If we ignore His severity and continue in our ways, we will meet His severity in the judgment when we can no longer correct the situation but must pay the ultimate price.

The interesting thing about God's dealings with men is that He has provided everything needed by men to have eternal life. God has provided physical life and our provisions. He has sent His Only Son to die for us on the Cross of Calvary. He was willing to forsake Him as He bore our sins. He was willing to see Him buried in Joseph's grave. He resurrected Him to provide our Spiritual life. He commended Him for His willingness to give His all for us. He promoted Him to a place at His right hand. He has provided the plan of salvation for us. He has given all of this plus the Holy Spirit to abide within us and guide us. He has done this that we might have eternal life. He asks from us a considered choice, that we might choose life over death.

Have you chosen to accept God's offer of eternal life through His Son?

M.C.Cook

## **THE TRAGIC SEPARATION OF PAUL AND BARNABAS**

Acts 15:35-41

Paul and Barnabas continued ministering in Antioch for a while. This church was flourishing and there were many others who also were engaged in preaching and teaching the Word. Things seemed to go along quite well for a while until one day, Paul got the itch to begin traveling again. So, he went and found Barnabas, and said, "Let us go again and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they do." Barnabas thought that sounded like a good idea, so he agreed. But Barnabas was "determined" to take John (Mark) along on the journey.



Paul was dead set against this idea! How could it be a positive thing to take along a "quitter?" When the going got tough, Mark got out of the race! He went home. He did not follow through to completion his part of the task on the first missionary journey. Paul strongly felt that it would be a bad influence upon those in the churches they planned to visit if they were to have Mark along as part of their missionary team. So Paul stubbornly refused to even consider the idea.

The Scripture does not indicate why Mark discontinued accompanying Paul and Barnabas on the missionary journey at Perga in Pamphylia. However, by so doing, he escaped the persecution that the others experienced later in the journey. Maybe when Paul caused the man at Pamphylia to become blind for a season, it was just too much for Mark. Or perhaps Mark got a taste of the persecution that was to come, and didn't like it. We really do not know why Mark turned back. But we do know that Paul and Barnabas had two very different opinions on the issue, and each was determined to do it his way.

There was a very sharp disagreement between the two successful missionaries. So rather than fighting it out, they somehow decided to part ways. Perhaps they felt it was better to go different ways than to continue to agitate and demand that each have his own way. In this way, they did not involve a lot of people in the Church at Antioch. They did not divide the crowd into "the followers of Paul" and "the followers of Barnabas". They stopped the disagreement before it split the church at Antioch.

In the end, Barnabas took Mark, and sailed for Cyprus. Paul took Silas, who was recommended by the brethren, and began retracing the steps he and Barnabas took in their first missionary journey.

One positive outcome was that there were now two ministry/missionary teams sent out to spread the good news of the Gospel! Potentially, these two teams could reach twice the number of people as they reached when there was just one team! We should always try to see the good in the midst of the bad. Sometimes, that's pretty tough to do!



There are two lessons in these few verses that should be highlighted.

The first lesson is that Barnabas was willing to give Mark a second chance. He obviously felt that Mark had matured and had grown in his Christian faith, and was willing to take him along again. Just so, many times God gives us a second, third, and fourth chance in spite of our failures!

The second lesson is that Paul, in considering the effects of including a "quitter" on the ministry team, chose to remain steadfast in his decision of not allowing Mark along on the missionary journey. He perhaps thought that Mark's attitude of giving up would infect the other members of his ministry team. He also likely thought that Mark's influence upon those in the churches along the way would be a negative one, since they no doubt knew about how Mark had abandoned the ministry team on their first missionary journey.

**Summary Thought...** Have you ever had a sharp disagreement with a fellow Christian? How have you resolved it? Have you been able to resolve it? Are there valid times in which it is right and proper "to part ways?" Are you willing to give someone who "blew it" a second chance?

Just a final thought to this passage of Scripture: after quite a long time, Paul was able to see that Mark did prove to be a steadfast, valuable ministry warrior. The time of the parting between Paul and Barnabas was approximately A.D. 51. About fifteen years later, near the end of Paul's life, he recognized and validated the value of Mark's ministry by instructing Timothy to "take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry" (II Timothy 4:11).

Respectfully Submitted,  
Brother Robert S. Lehigh

### **EDIFY ONE ANOTHER**

"Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do." I Thessalonians 5:11.

Not long ago, whilst in a state of spiritual distress, I sought out a Brother in the faith with my problem, and he was an encouragement to me. He did not criticize me, or make light of my problem, but he was kind, and told me to seek God's favor, for he had walked the same path before. I took his advice, which was to press on and not be discouraged. I have not regretted it. Another servant of God once said, "Be kind, for most people are having a rough time."

To edify means to encourage, to build up, to lift up and lighten the burden. In Ephesians 4:11-12, it says, "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:"

Though we should edify one another, there are those selected of God to edify the Body. Edification is therefore an important attribute of the Christian life. Just as the Temple was built up, by the hands of many men and the instructions of God, so is His church to be built up: each member edified and strengthened by God and by each other. The scriptures say that Jesus went about doing good. He was our example. We should be building up, not tearing down, as Jesus built up.

In our text, the phrase, "comfort yourselves together" is used. We comfort one another when there is adversity or trouble or persecution. In many churches today this phrase means nothing because there is no persecution. No one speaks of salvation to others, no one witnesses of the goodness of God. Church is just a social event with no spiritual value.

Romans 12:15 tells us to "Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep." Verse ten says to be "...kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another." There is no better encouragement than to show others that you are in solidarity with them. Sometimes we can do nothing more than weep with them, and this is enough because they know that you are suffering with them. This is better than any amount of kind words, though kind words are also important.

I Thessalonians 4:16-18 says, "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel,



and with the trump of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words." It helps in our uneven journey here below to keep our eye on the prize. When we plow a field we look ahead to the end of the field. When we run a race, we look to the finish line. When we become discouraged, we should remember what lies ahead. Paul said, in Philippians 3:14, "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." "And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure." I John 3:3.

Brother Lynn H. Miller

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### THE THREE WOES

"Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight! Woe unto them who are mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink: Which justify the wicked for reward, and take away the righteousness of the righteous from him!" Isaiah 5:20-23.

We are living in a time of spiritual confusion. Way back in the time of the Old Testament prophets there were those who called themselves prophets and priests who were not faithful to the voice of God. The New Testament Church also had those who were in opposition to the called out leaders of their day. However, in the last few hundred years this type of rebellion seems to have been on the increase. For certain, the three woes of Isaiah are relevant for our day.

We are living in a day when church people are speaking out in favor of abortion and telling homosexuals and lesbians that God made them that way and not to be ashamed of it! Are they not calling evil good? On the other hand, they accuse those who warn against such practices of being unloving. Is this not calling good evil?



The air waves are filled with preachers who insist that we can not make modern day applications to the Holy Scriptures. Hollywood movies, television, card playing and worldly dancing are all now considered to be optional for Christians along with many other former actions considered to be sinful. Is this putting darkness for light? On the other hand, these same preachers are telling the multitudes that once they are saved absolutely nothing they do will cause an individual to be removed from the grace of God. Is this putting light for darkness?

Popular Christianity teaches that such things as the head covering for women are optional at best and legalistic at worst. Is this being wise in their own eyes? On the other hand, all too much of the conservative movement is prudent (sensible, not hasty in speaking or acting) in their own sight. Sadly, fault finding and nit picking has become a favorite past time for many conservative groups. Most of these individuals, we are certain, are very sincere in their concern for purity in the Church. Make no mistake about it, God does demand that His people be not conformed to this world. We also are convinced that we must deal with people with a good attitude.

The arguments for and against total abstinence concerning alcoholic beverages has troubled the Church down through the centuries. It is surprising how many plain groups do not take the position of total abstinence. While we respect their using wine for communion we are glad we use the pure juice of the grape. Do those who use the wine consider themselves to be mighty to drink wine? There are also those who teach that only the weak teach against all strong drink. They teach that God gives the power to control drunkenness. Are these the men of strength to mingle strong drink?

We could have called this article the four woes. For in verses 18 and 19 of this chapter we read these words. "Woe unto them that draw iniquity with cords of vanity, and sin as it were with a cart rope: That say, Let him make speed, and hasten his work, that we may see it: and let the counsel of the Holy One of Israel draw nigh and come, that we may know it!" We see these verses as fitting in with the last portion of our present effort.

These woes (or abominations) Israel listed are used to justify the wicked for reward. One of these rewards is popularity. When you draw iniquity with cords of vanity you justify evil with your own wisdom. We have heard preachers say such things as "If the barn needs a little paint put it on," justifying the use of make up and other cosmetics. They interpret modesty in dress and make applications until the ideal is meaningless. They argue how short is short concerning the length of a woman's hair and end up with no standard whatsoever in many cases. They start by arguing for "a little jewelry" and often end up with no limitations. All this makes them very popular in the eyes of the masses.

Sadly, they take away the righteousness of the righteous from him (or her). They do all this claiming to have "the counsel of the Holy One of Israel!" Brothers and sisters, if we ever needed discernment it is today. May we stand for Truth with Love.

Brother James M. Hite  
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## **KENYA KNOTES**

August 3, Saturday

Jeremiah worked up at the house most of the day and finished (I think!) the plumbing. We cleaned the house and I did our laundry. Ray moved the computer desk out to the livingroom. I think that will be nice so I can type when others are sleeping.

Saturday must be cleaning day for the native women too. So many people seem to come for water on Saturday. We have certain hours for them to come, so that helps us out.

Our electricity here is powered by water, but it seems when it goes off the most is when we get a lot of rain. We had the generator run this evening for light and baths, and so the guys could use the computer.

August 4, Sunday

Jeremiah had a surprise when he tried to study (on the computer) this morning. It just would not work. He and Ray both



worked at it, but nothing improved. Ray received an e-mail last night and everything seemed normal. So it does not seem as if we should have a virus! Noeckers went to Kaptilamwa with Hosea and we stayed here. Jeremiah preached both morning and afternoon. He really enjoyed the Sunday School, talking about the Holy Kiss. I made Pork Chops and Potato casserole for dinner. We had the good frozen peas, too. Cheryl made lemon meringue pies that we had with popcorn this evening. It was a good day, but Ray checked and the computer has more than a twenty-four hour sickness! Tonight we found out that our phone that rings has a problem. We are cut off from the world!

August 5, Monday

Jeremiah started on the electrical but only was able to put in two boxes all morning. He was kept busy with church and medical work. This afternoon was a little less busy.

I made tapioca (new to me!) and Peppersteak for supper. Jeremiah loved it, but some of the children were not so impressed. The guys had the Makutano leadership meeting tonight. Florence came down for a while. The guys came home at 9:45, just after the children were sent to bed.

August 6, Tuesday

James, the computer man from Eldoret, came this afternoon. We were so glad to see him. He was tired when he got here — he had walked from Makutano. Imagine a man with his education and job — walking! He found an internal problem with the computer, and fixed it. We were glad nothing was lost or changed. Jeremiah went to see if Andrew Street (another missionary) was still around. He found out that he had gone back to Great Britain about a year ago.

At 7:30 Jeremiah went with some of the church leaders to visit a member. It was 10:45 or so when he got home.

August 7, Wednesday

The guys left right after breakfast to take care of church work. It turned into an all day affair. Helen came for work, so Cheryl gave her pants, and I got slippers and shoes for her to scrub. She is a single mother of two and she likes to work for us so she can



provide for herself. She can really clean up muddy shoes. They look like new! I packed to go to Meru tomorrow.

August 8, Thursday

I got up early to get around. Jeremiah left before 9 and stopped all over town to pick up people. He was frustrated they were not ready, but then he decided, "This is Kenya, enjoy it!" We had to stop in Soy, then Matunda, and Eldoret. Then, with James' brothers, parents, cousin, and Gilbert, we were on our way! We have all our family but Hosanna. She seemed excited about staying.

The trip went fine. He dropped the children and me at the Guesthouse around 4:30 P.M. It was so good to get out and stretch. He took the rest to their hotels and was back around 6. We had a nice evening. The children enjoyed baths in a real (extra big) bathtub!

August 9, Friday

We got up at 5:15 and left here at 6. We had to totally pack and move out of our room, to a much smaller room. The Guesthouse will be really full tonight. We had everyone picked up and were on the way to Meru by 6:45. The drive went well but took much longer than what James had thought. The graduation was at 10:30 and we did not get there until 10:45. We thought, "Surely a graduation will start on time." HA! We got there and several hundred graduates still stood around the gate — I suppose waiting for their families to arrive. Out of the crowd flew James! He was so excited he was hopping up and down. He first jumped on the back of the cruiser, then he flew around to the front, to direct us through the masses of people. The singing finally started around noon! Everyone was lined up on chairs all around the student body at first, but as soon as things really started, that all changed. Some wanted to see better so they walked up to behind where the students were seated. That blocked others' view, so soon twenty-five percent of the people stood in a huge circle around the student body, totally blocking the view of the rest. It was unreal! Some of the rest actually stood on the benches and chairs where everyone was supposed to be seated, just so they could see. Everyone acted as if this was to be expected! So we mostly just listened to the poor speaker's system. James

had brought me a high stool, and every now and then I stood on top of it (!) so I could see what was going on. There were different performances by the students. James wrote and read a poem in Swahili. Let me tell you; he is a character — a gifted one! When it came time for the awards, he had five or six of them. There really were not many awards either. With over five hundred fifty students graduating, he was the top in everything and got the best-all-around-student award. It really surprised us, I guess. His tailor family was really proud of him. The graduation was over by 2. We left Meru at 4:30. We stopped at 6:30 in Embu for supper. Everyone sang for the last two hours of the trip back to Nairobi in the dark. Jeremiah was really thankful for that!

August 10, Saturday

In the morning after breakfast we packed and left. We picked everyone up and were on our way shortly after 9. We got to Soy and our meal was ready! It was a full Kenyan meal of chicken, broth, rice, ugali, chapati, and cooked cabbage. It was good! It rained and was so mucky it was gross. That mud just caked on your shoes. I really worked to get them decent to even climb into the cruiser. We got home at 7:30 or 8:00 P.M. It is good to be home.

August 11, Sunday

Hosea had a really good sermon. He preached from notes! Noeckers went to Chesebet for services and to hand out maize. The computer was not working again this morning. We decided that Satan must attack it on Sunday mornings! Actually, Ray is wondering if we need a new hard drive. It will not do anything this time. We played a card game this evening called Boom O. Someone sent it to Ray's over here. It was fun but after September 11 last year, it was not so funny. Ray won the game.

August 12, Monday

I had a lot of laundry today and a lot of scrubbing. Jeremiah worked at electrical boxes in the new house. I went up for a little and watched the men plastering the walls. That sure is different from what we do in America. Noeckers went to Kitale to pay bills and get supplies, and got back just before supper. I made roasted chicken, mashed potatoes and carrots for supper. The guys had



their leaders meeting at 7:00 P.M. The children played well this evening and Cheryl and I visited as I folded clothes. We had brownies for dessert just before bed, and put the children to bed just as the men came home. After the children were settled we had a little meeting in the kitchen to catch up and be ready for the trip tomorrow. I packed this evening.

August 13, Tuesday

We had french toast for breakfast and hoped to leave around 9. A girl from Chesebet was supposed to come, and go with us to her school near Nakuru. We packed and I did extra cleaning. At 10:45 we left without her. We picked up Hosea and were on our way. Hosea is going to do work for Ray's work permit.

It was a good trip; it seemed so roomy, and it was nice to have Hosanna with us. It was so funny to listen to Hosea tease Micaiah. He told him he would turn black soon because he was in Kenya. "You are just teasing," Micaiah said. Hosea pointed to Micaiah's knuckles and said, "See you are turning black already!" "That's just dirt!" Micaiah protested. "I'm going to always stay a mzumgu." It gave us a good laugh. We had really good spaghetti at the guesthouse this evening and a relaxing evening.

August 14, Wednesday

Jeremiah took the three older children to the airport to pick up Davidson, right after breakfast. I sat and caught up in my journal, and enjoyed the quiet. Before long they were back with Davidson. Jeremiah was feeling sorry for him, afraid he might be depressed after having fulfilled the Kenyan's lifetime dream. Davidson slept a lot of the day, and came late to meals. He seemed rather quiet, but we do not really know him very well. After naps we went to the Sarit Center to check it out and go to Uchumi. Wow! That place is huge, and has grown a lot in three years. I got all but the perishables on the list of what I could find. It's nice to get to know some of the missionaries here. Our children have two sets of grandparents here for a few days!

August 15, Thursday

Jeremiah ran errands this morning to take care of business. After naps we went to check out the Nakumatt and get the stuff



on the list for there. They had no white sugar. He told me to check at another Nakumatt downtown. White sugar is so cheap and available in America. We use raw sugar for everything, and some brown sugar. But raw sugar does not dissolve in cold water very well.

We got back barely in time for supper. After supper we left for the airport to pick up Nancy. We watched and waited for her and she never did come! What a feeling! Jeremiah phoned Ray and asked for information and we walked to the Kenya Airways office. She is coming tomorrow evening! We decided she is probably ready to leave for the airport in Michigan, and here we are waiting in Kenya, expecting her to get off the plane! I guess we never got her itinerary.

Davidson is loosening up. He and Micaiah had a lot of fun tonight. He is calling Micaiah, "Captain Crunch."

August 16, Friday

Jeremiah went to talk to the people that run the guesthouse this morning to see if they can give us another night. They are full. So Jeremiah ran over to the Hampton House and made reservations for tonight. After breakfast I started packing up and did another load of laundry. I wish we were just going home, but we have another day. We got to the Hampton House and the children enjoyed the new play area. They have a jungle gym outside, and a sandbox. We ate pizza at the Sarit Center and got the perishables at Uchumi. It's nice that we have a refrigerator here to put it in. After naps I bathed the children and we had sandwiches for supper. Then we went to the airport for Nancy. The children, especially Micaiah, were so excited to watch the airplanes come in. I almost did not expect her to come tonight either, since we had waited so long last night and she did not come. But she did come! It was good to see her walking through those doors. We had a nice time catching up on news from home this evening.

August 17, Saturday

We packed up and organized the cruiser. Boy, are we ever full! We picked up Hosea, and we have James, too. We were on our way. The trip went well. We had several stops: for rhubarb, potatoes and oranges. One thing nice about the rack on top the

cruiser is that we can always add one more thing. The mountain on top was pretty big! We stopped for nyama choma (roasted meat) for lunch. We bought a goat leg off the grill and the guy cut it off the bone in front of us on the table. We all just picked off the pile until it was gone. It was delicious! Jeremiah raved about it for the rest of the day. The other guys love it too. I thought it tasted good but I was not real thrilled to have the glass room full of skinned goats in front of me as I ate. And Micaiah at my elbow, talking about the dead goats through the entire meal! We got home at 6:30. It was so good to be home. Cheryl made chapati and we had tacos for supper. That was really good! The evening was busy with unpacking, organizing, and catching up. We have a nice house here!

August 18, Sunday

Most of our computer is new now. But we have lost a lot of stuff. We do not even have our old address book because our hard drive crashed. I guess the phone line did not have a surge protector on it and it was struck by lightning. We were gone to Meru to James' graduation when that happened. Cheryl was standing in the front yard and felt electricity go all through her. Later they found out that the phone line was struck.

Everyone stayed at Makutano this Sunday which was really different. With us getting home from Nairobi last evening, we were tired and not in the mood for a service away. Rays went away last Sunday. With the trips over we will get back into the schedule now.

Church was packed this morning. There were a lot of visitors and all the regulars were here. Gilbert preached. This is the first I have heard him because he always has to interpret. Now that James is back he can do the interpreting, at least part of the time. Gilbert had a good sermon on the prodigal son. He preached in English, so we were able to get a lot more out of the sermon. We had put a roast in the oven with potatoes and carrots. Church lasted until 1:30 P.M.

August 19, Monday

The electricity came on around midnight last night, and our bedroom was one of the lights that I had forgotten to turn off. Talk



about a rude awakening! We moved the washer from the laundry room to the garage, because Nancy now has the laundry room as her bedroom. Ray had run the water line, and Jeremiah ran the electricity this morning. It was almost 10 before he got that done, so I had a late start for laundry. It was a big washday, with getting home from Nairobi on Saturday. I really hoped for a day with no rain, but before 2:00 I had to take the first load off the line because it was raining. All the children helped do that and some of the girls hung them on the verandah lines while I put our children to bed. They did not dry very well at all because it was so damp for the rest of the day. Tonight Nancy helped me to sort out the ones that were drier and I put them on our bed to dry. There are still a lot of clothes out on the verandah.

Esther came at 1:00 P.M. for a call from Phaniel. They had arranged that ahead of time. He tried to call several times, and could not get through. Finally Nancy was able to talk to him, but by the time Esther got to the phone he was cut off. She waited until 3:20, then gave up and went home. I felt sorry for her! We are guessing that the rain is affecting the phone lines.

James came today to find out his work load and catch up on the church business. I made goulash, salad and fruit pizza for supper. The fruit pizza had apples, pineapples, mango and banana on it. It was good, and I really enjoyed having cream cheese again! That is so hard to get here and I brought it home from Nairobi. Still, it tastes a little funny, as if it has lemon juice in it! The guys had a leadership meeting tonight and got home at about 10:00 P.M.

August 20, Tuesday

Cheryl got a really good start to laundry today because Tuesday seems to be a day when the electricity goes off a lot. I had quite a few clothes finished drying this morning. Cheryl did well with her laundry and they were dry before the rain came. The electricity went off this evening around suppertime, so we ate by candlelight. Ray started the generator, the electricity came back on, then it went off again. After a while of using the generator, it came on to stay. Cheryl made eggrolls, skins and all. We worked together putting them together. What a job! They did not look very nice but they tasted really good. We had Rhubarb Roll-ups for



dessert. That is a favorite around here. I cut my guys' hair. Micaiah did really well; he watched the computer screensaver as I worked! Some of us played the game of Life after the children went to bed. That was fun.

August 21, Wednesday

This morning Ray said he was going to Nairobi to get his work permit worked on. Hosea has been doing the work, but now they need Ray's fingerprint done. Since Noeckers have reapplied for work permits they need new ID pictures for that. All the Noeckers went to Kitale, got pictures, then Nancy came back home by matatu. The rest went on to Nakuru for the night. Ray will go on to Nairobi tomorrow, do the paperwork, then come back for his family the same day. That is what he hopes anyway, but hapa Kenya you never know. We will see. We just got a form in the mail from the immigration department saying that our permit has been accepted and they are ready for the next step. We have to see when we can get an appointment for fingerprinting Jeremiah. That was pretty exciting!

Today was a beautiful laundry day. It did not rain until 5 this evening. Phanuel called for Esther, and they were able to talk. I was glad for her, and she seemed happy. Jeremiah worked on the fence around the compound. Philip from Chepcornishwa came for medical fees for the church there. Shadrach, who was a member when we were here and took the reading class we gave, came today. He brought a wedding invitation for our family. He is living in Lodwar now, and that is where the wedding will be on Sept. 7. It was nice to see him again. He speaks English now! Francis brought a love offering — two bunches of scuma. I thanked him kindly, and wondered what to do with it. We already have spinach in the refrigerator and we do not really use scuma (greens) here. I was wishing one of our poorer members would come so we could bless them. Sure enough, GoGo came for water. She was thrilled with the bunch of scuma we gave her. Now, hopefully, another poor member will come tomorrow. It really is fun to give when someone does not ask!

August 22, Thursday

Greetings! Today was different with Noeckers gone. Nancy

started sewing a dress and I did house work this morning. At 8:30 some of the guys from church came to take down the church tent. They were done within an hour and Nancy had chai ready for them. Then Jeremiah discussed church financial records with James, who is the newly appointed secretary. I walked up to the new house while Nancy warmed up left-overs for dinner. I was really impressed! There are three rooms with the finish plaster, and they are so nice and smooth — almost like drywall! They were rough plastering the hall area on the small end of the house. There is a lot of tin on the second side of the house. The retaining wall is nearly finished and it looks nice. Things are coming along!

At 3 this afternoon the ladies came for their meeting. Instead of having a meeting, we worked! We scrubbed the tent. Boy, that was a job! We had to scrub both sides of all the pieces. There was the big, striped, main tent (18x24 ft. I think), and three extension pieces. We had three hand brushes and one broom brush. I had the broom brush to start with, and that lasted about one minute. I gave it to someone with a sore back and never got it back. I did use the mop for a while but mostly I used hand brushes. My arms just ached and I was worn out when we were done, but was fun to work with the women. Some of the women left before we were done, but quite a few stayed until the last bit was done. I had to send liniment home with a couple of women, and everyone was gone around 5:30. The tent looks almost new!

Ray called from Nakuru this evening. He had good success in Nairobi today — he was fingerprinted and applied for the dependent passes for his family. He got the security bond for Jeremiah's work permit also. He did have a worthwhile trip, and we are thankful!

August 23, Friday

Jeremiah took the three older children to the new house with him, this morning. It was a quiet morning. Gilbert came saying he had to have a tooth pulled. He was going to go to the clinic so he did not have to waste the whole day at the hospital. He said he could make up for the extra cost by the work he could get done through the rest of the day. He went on his way. An hour or so later he came. I did not see him walk in the gate; I just saw him lay



under the tree in the back yard. Jeremiah went to talk to him. He was so miserable he knew he could not work. He did get Novocain, thankfully. We felt so sorry for him and Jeremiah drove him home. He did not work the rest of the day. He might as well have spent his day at the hospital, we said. But really, the way they are treated at the hospital, he was probably better off anyway!

August 24, Saturday

At 8:30 the leaders from church were here to put the tent up again. They put it up near to where the new church is to be built. It took them until dinner to finish. Jeremiah had to visit with a church member this morning. Gilbert is feeling better and was here. He was in the meeting too. Jeremiah had a visit with another church member this afternoon, too. They are trying to get some things worked out, and counseling. James, the computer man was here to bring a disc drive for the computer. The guys are really anxious for it. They need it to study and to keep financial records. Jeremiah dreads trying to catch up!

I made Hamburger Cheese Bake with some of our precious milk products from Nairobi. It tasted really good. I made an apple dessert too. I am trying to use our few apples carefully because we cannot get them around here.

August 25, Sunday

I got up early, made egg casserole, then took a shower. We left for Ortum with Patrick, Elizabet, three of their children, and Samuel (all Pokot) at 9:15. It was a beautiful drive down (but north!) to Ortum. Elizabet got sick and I had to give her our bag from the ashtray. I felt sorry for her.

To get to the Ortum church is quite a venture, once you are off the main road. We drove through the town of Ortum until the road was really rough (deep washouts). We kept driving down a side street until Jeremiah turned off the road into what looked like someone's yard. We hopped over the low curb and went between a couple of houses. It almost looked like a dirt road for a little bit, then we came up to some more houses (we were behind them now). We needed to pass between these two trees, and between the trees was someone's clothesline! At Jeremiah's instruction, Patrick and Samuel each got on one side of the cruiser and lifted



the line (clothes and all!) over the cruiser as we went slowly under it. It seemed so barbaric! We went a little further, across some deep washouts, over a flat smooth stretch of country, and we came up to the church gate. Once we got to church we sat there for a half hour before Moses came. We sang for another half hour before Moses got up to do Sunday School, because we were waiting for the rest of the church. The building itself is comfortable for a church in Ortum. It is a mud-stick church with only the poles and the roof. It was cool, yet shaded. Elizabet sat wrapped in her wrap around. The building they used to rent there was always so hot, and it was finished! You have beautiful scenery to inspire you as you sit in church (that you would not be able to see if the walls were finished!) There are high mountains all the way around. You can hear the river on the other side of the maize fields surrounding the church. It is a gorgeous country!

We left there and went to Chepcornishwa to pick up James and Joseph, who have been doing evangelism there. James was just finishing his sermon. He was really hoarse! Later we found out why. Not only did they preach every night, they went around to homes and preached all day long! It sounded as if they had quite a few converts — Praise God! After going through the Pokot greetings after church we were invited back to Francis' house. They had a meal that they served us. It was maize and beans, and it was good. They were not dry, but still made you thirsty. The children begged for water, and I had only Jerusha's sipper cupful that was gone before we left Ortum. They brought water for us to drink in glasses. We would not let the children have any because it looked just like lemonade! They could not understand but were cooperative. After our food was nearly gone they brought tea, and we all drank that, knowing it was boiled. Soon we headed home. Poor Elizabet got sick on the way home again. I was glad I had another bag to pass back! We got home at 4:00 P.M. At 6:15 we took our men and Hosea to the stage to catch a bus for Nairobi. They need to visit with Joseph Ogutu, and they hope to do their travel at night so that they will be gone the shortest amount of time possible. So Cheryl and I will be "widows" for two nights, hopefully no more!

August 26, Monday

Today went pretty well. Joseph Ocamel (the leader from Chesebet) stayed at James' last night, then came this morning for his medicine. Cheryl had gone to the chemist but the guy could not read the doctor's writing, so James and Joseph went to explain the situation, and got the medicine. Men from the electric company came to trim the trees for the electric lines. They made our already bad-looking edge look even worse. Cheryl told them that it was ugly. She tried to explain to them how to make it look nice, but I do not think they got it. They had only a penga or two, and there were five or six guys in the crew. Most of the time three guys sat around the bottom of the ladder, doing nothing. I think they were really amused at Cheryl. They certainly did not follow her suggestions. Finally one told her that they were told to cut everything ten meters from the line(!!!) The children were thrilled when one big pine-like branch fell over their playhouse (which has the frame but no roof). They drug leaves inside and rearranged the roof until they had a nice little house. It smelled good too! We were not so impressed with the mess the men left behind: branches partly hacked off, a mess all down the edge, and several bushes of flowers in the beds destroyed. But we have electricity, and we are thankful for that!

This evening before supper, Gilbert came, very excited. "I have found my jams!" he said. He was in town after lunch and saw the door jams he had made, in someone's shop. He talked to the guy who seemed very innocent. He went to the police and they talked to the man who said he bought them from another person. That person had bought them from another person! So Gilbert and the police went to that man's home, and Gilbert saw all his missing door jams! The man declared he was innocent but acted very guilty, Gilbert said. From what I understand, the police took all three men in custody. They will have questioning tomorrow. Gilbert was pretty happy about having started investigation, but he felt bad too. He said the last man's wife was crying as they were taking her husband. "I am very sorry" he told her. These people are not anyone we know — so far anyway. We are pretty sure there is more than one involved though. I guess we will find out more later. The guys are not here to hear the happenings! It



was a quiet evening (as quiet as it can be in a house with nine children!).

August 27, Tuesday

I got up this morning hoping that the guys would soon come, but then I was surprised when they arrived at the gate! In Kenya I am used to everything taking longer than you plan. They were here at 7:30 or so this morning. This trip went well and they visited with Joseph Ogutu. Jeremiah got his work permit! We were really happy about that. It was also a good time for the guys to fellowship.

The men were tired from the bumpy ride in the bus, but they went to work this morning at the new house. Jeremiah did some wiring and he was overseeing the digging of a ditch to run water to the new house. It was run as far as the front yard, and they have been using a hose from the hydrant. He tried to stress the importance of being careful of the underground line, but still they put a hole in it.

We washed floors and Cheryl did laundry. The children played in their playhouse. Gilbert came and said that investigations were going on over our stolen things. I guess the door jams were actually found in the house of the first man that Gilbert saw. But still, he seems innocent. They released the first two men and are questioning the third man. He still will not talk. Gilbert is a real softy. He just wants them to get his tools back, then let the man go. I do appreciate his Christ-like spirit about it all. But we are thinking that there are more people involved. We are praying about the situation. There are a lot of mixed feelings. We had a unit meeting this afternoon while the children napped. We set up new schedules and arranged responsibilities for Nancy being here now. All through our meeting the phone rang continually. Cheryl was able to talk to a boy one time, other than that the phone just cut out. Someone surely was persistent! We wondered if it was all the same person! We wondered sometimes if someone was trying to call from America! Finally they quit trying. We had a good evening.

August 28, Wednesday

At 8:00 A.M. prompt, James was here to teach his Swahili class. Nancy and Jeremiah are the pupils, but I sat in the class



and tried to catch all I could. I do not want to be totally tied down because the children still need attention. It all made so much more sense than it did the first time we were here and we had classes. We are so much more familiar with the language now! I enjoyed it.

The electricity was off for only a short time this morning. I was glad because we did not have to start the generator for my laundry. Gilbert came and had more news about the thief case. He said the man does have helpers who are hiding the loot. The police are working and the man's neighbors are reporting on him also.

Today was a lovely warm day. It clouded up in the afternoon but only rained a few drops, then after a while the sun came out warm again. I studied for Women's Bible Study tomorrow. It is my turn to lead the study. Cheryl was feeling even better today. The church members are quite relieved. I guess the ministers came in to pray for her on Sunday after church. They are quicker to petition God than we seem to be most of the time. I appreciate that in them. It was a good day in Kenya!

August 29, Thursday

Today was a beautiful sunny day, all day long. The electricity was on all day too! James taught his Swahili class this morning again. It went well and I am glad there was not a lot of tough material. I still need to study some of the words from yesterday. Today he covered first, second, and third person pronouns. We are pretty familiar with that already. After dinner I finished studying for Women's Bible Study. I had all our children asleep when I went out to the meeting at 3:30. There were about a dozen women at the meeting today. It went well. Before the meeting someone called asking for Deacon Peter. He did not know English very well at all. I asked if I could take a message. He told me, "The brother's wife's daughter died." I asked questions and got out of him that the death was sudden and the daughter was two. I asked names and what he told me I could hardly pronounce, let alone remember. He sounded really strained and I felt bad to push him anymore, but I felt so lost. We said "Good-bye" and I wondered what to tell Peter. I gave Rebecca the message when she came

for the meeting and the ladies puzzled over it. I hope they can figure out who it was. We are wondering if it might be Rebecca's family. I feel bad about the whole thing.

The guys did not get in for supper until 7. We were very weary of the hungry children by the time we sat down to the table. Cheryl made meatballs and potatoes and peas for supper. It was a good evening.

August 30, Friday

Today was interesting. I was glad when the call for Peter came again while James was here for the Swahili class. He talked to them and got the message clearly. It was Rebecca's brother's son that died, and he was two years old. The funeral was today at 1:00 P.M. I was so glad they called back and the message was given to Peter and Rebecca. I guess I really need to learn Swahili!

We heard that there were triplets born at the Kapenguria hospital! They were born to Agnes' sister. Agnes is Abram's wife that gave birth to twin girls that died a few months ago. Emelda wanted to go visit and we did too, so we went this afternoon around 4:30. Cheryl had to stay home to make supper. Jeremiah was studying for his sermon at the Unity Meeting. We walked down to the maternity ward and met Edwin's wife, Jane, outside the maternity ward door. She is due with her forth child, and hopes for it to come tonight! We waited for a nurse to admit us to the Special Care Unit. We took off our shoes by the door — no scrubbing or gowns — and walked into the preemies' room. Agnes' sister sat on a chair holding a tiny little baby. He was crying and she was trying to comfort him. Soon she took down a sipper cup and with a spoon began to feed the baby. There were NO BOTTLES! In the 45 minutes we were there she fed all three like that. Agnes said that her sister gets no sleep, she has no choice but to care for the babies all the time. There are not any nurses to care for the babies in there! I felt for that poor tired mother. Agnes spends her days and evenings at the hospital helping her sister. The babies are four days old now. Agnes said that sometimes when she comes, all the babies are crying and her sister is crying too. She does nurse them, too. One of the babies refuses the spoon. Those babies are just adorable: I wanted to bring one home with me.



There are two boys and a girl: Gloria, Gabriel and Gideon. They look very healthy, and drink well, but it would really help the mom if she would use a little scheduling! They do not do that here at all. They each weigh 3 1/5 to 4 pounds. I have never seen triplets, and thought it was really neat.

It was a cool evening and Jeremiah played games with the children outside. Florence came to talk about food for dinner tomorrow. She is sick with malaria, and her blood pressure is up. So many are sick with malaria right now.

### PRAYER REQUEST

Please pray for Florence. I am really concerned about her. Her blood pressure is so high, and she was admitted to the hospital this evening. The lower number was 120 and I know that is dangerous. She said after church this morning that her right side feels funny — numb or something and her hand is not working properly. Ray, Cheryl, Jeremiah and I all went to the hospital to see her this evening. She said she is having a lot of pain in her chest and her head hurts real bad, other than that she is fine. They are starting her on blood pressure medication, but are trying to figure out if there might be a cause for the blood pressure going up. She had malaria last week and was on medication for that.

August 31, Saturday

Our sixth Wedding Anniversary — my, time does fly! I was not so thrilled when James showed up for Swahili class this morning. I was hoping Saturday was a day off. I had laundry to do before the Unity Meeting at 10:00 A.M. It turned out fine anyway. We enjoyed the class, though it went for an hour and twenty minutes today. I got our clothes done and went to Hosea's for the meeting. It was for ministers, deacons, missionaries and their wives. It is a time of sharing for everyone. It started late, and seemed rather dead. Peter and Rebecca were not back from the funeral in her family, and Alfred wasn't there at all. Edwin came, but not Jane, because she is in the hospital and has not delivered their baby yet. Edwin and Florence were both sick and looked as if they were sleeping most of the time. Cheryl was not feeling well and was there only part of the time. We had a good meeting, and



I enjoyed the fellowship. A couple of ladies from church made a meal for us. Cherilyn helped make the meal, and deliver it. She loves that, I guess! After dinner, Jeremiah preached (from his seat) a sermon of instruction to the leadership from Timothy. It was a good time of encouragement. We dismissed at 3:30 P.M. We went home, caught up on a few things, grabbed the shopping list, then we headed out with Matthias for an evening away. We got a rather late start, and had quite a few stops, but we had a fun evening. We ate at the Kitale Club as a guest of the owner of the Soy Market. He found out it was our anniversary and wrote a referral for us! We got home at 8:45, only to find out that there was a plug in the drainline from the shower. Ray was digging holes all around the front of the house to figure out the problem. Thankfully, we were able to take showers tonight!

## OBITUARY

### MARGUERITE FLORY

Sister Marguerite D. Flory, 77, of Hart, Michigan passed away Friday, August 9, 2002, at Lakeshore Community Hospital.

She was born December 10, 1924, in Hastings, Michigan, the daughter of Arthur and Mina (DeBar) Kidder. She married Lawrence V. Flory, July 20, 1945, in Hastings. She lived in this area over fifty years. She was a homemaker. She was active in music at the Hart Wesleyan Church where she was choir director and played the piano, before becoming a charter member of the Hart Dunkard Brethren Church. She dearly loved her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Survived by her husband Lawrence V. Flory; daughter Sharon (husband Jay McGhan) of Hart, Michigan; son Dr. Roland Flory of Atlantic, Iowa; six grandchildren and fifteen great grandchildren; sister Marie Chamberlin of Hastings, Michigan; brothers Robert Kidder of Denver, Colorado and Thomas Kidder of Hastings, Michigan. She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Albert and Ray Kidder and sister Alice Tebo.

Funeral Services were held August 12, 2002, at the Hart Dunkard Brethren Church. Officiating ministers were Elder Ronald

Marks and Pastor Tom Schmidt. She was laid to rest in the city of Hart Cemetery.

She will be greatly missed by family, friends and church members.

The family of Sister Marguerite Flory would like to thank all who sent cards, flowers and offered up prayers during her illness and after her passing.

## **NEWS ITEMS**

### **LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE**

This year's Leadership Conference will be held at Quinter, Kansas, November 8-9, 2002, the Lord willing. Besides the sessions designed for Dunkard Brethren officials, there will be preaching services, each evening as well as on Sunday. Further information will be sent to each official.

### **PLEVNA, INDIANA**

The Lord willing, the Plevna Congregation plans to have their Harvest Meeting on Sunday, November 10, with Brother David Rice as speaker. Everyone is welcome.

Sister Margaret Birt, Cor.

### **SWALLOW FALLS, MARYLAND**

The Swallow Falls Congregation invites you to join us for our fall Revival Meeting, Lord Willing, November 10 through November 17. Lovefeast services are planned for November 16. Bro. Dave Snyder from Colorado will be our evangelist. We heartily welcome everyone and ask that you pray for these meetings.

Sister Edith Yoder, Cor.

## **ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR NOVEMBER 2002**

Nov. 3 - Giving for God Results in Thanksgiving to God - II Cor. 9:1-15

1. Can giving "grudgingly" or of necessity still result in a blessing and in thanksgiving to God?
2. What is necessary for a "grudging giver" to become a "cheerful giver"?

Nov. 10 - Dispute Over Paul's Authority - II Cor. 10:1-18

1. For what purpose did the Lord give authority to Paul?
2. Is it safe to say that those who struggle with the concept of authority today most likely would have struggled with Paul's authority had they lived in his day?

Nov. 17 - A Burden to No One - II Cor. 11:1-15

1. When Paul preached the gospel "freely" did some of Corinth misunderstand his reasons and purpose?
2. What might be some "positives" or "negatives" of the free ministry?

Nov. 24 - Thanksgiving - I Chron. 16:7-36

1. What was the special occasion on that day that prompted David to deliver this psalm of praise and thanksgiving and why was it so important to them?
2. What does the expression mean to you? "Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness."



## **YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR NOVEMBER 2002**

Nov. 3 - A Great Deceiver - Gen. 3:1-24, Matt. 4:1-11, II Cor. 2:10-17, II Cor. 11:13-15

1. What did the serpent attempt to plant in Eve's mind about God's instruction?
2. Do you think the devil would quote the Holy Scriptures in an effort to deceive you?

Nov. 10 - Our Protection - II Chron. 16:7-9, Dan. 3:15-25, 6:11-23, Luke 21:18-19

1. If a Christian loses his life for his faith, at the hands of evil men, does that mean God's power for protection is limited?
2. Consider the relationship between patience, faith and God's protection of believers.

Nov. 17 - Nonresistance - Isa. 9:6-7, John 18:36-40, II Cor. 10:3-6, Rom. 12:14-21, Gal. 5:19-26

1. Is nonresistance a teaching for the believer or unbeliever?
2. Who is our greatest example of a life of nonresistance?

Nov. 24 - Thanksgiving - Ps. 105:1-5, 106:1-5, 107:21-22, 111:1-10

1. Can you express thanks in the midst of difficulty or trial?
2. What happens to us when we lose the attitude of thanksgiving?

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# BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXX

NOVEMBER, 2002

NO. 11

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

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OUR MOTTO: Scriptural in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,  
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

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## YET THERE IS ROOM!

Yet there is room! The feast is spread  
For every hungry, thirsting soul,  
And living streams, and living bread  
Are ours when once we reach our goal.

Yet there is room! The home of peace  
Throws open wide each crystal door,  
And voices full of love and bliss  
Bid us come in and rove no more.

Yet there is room! The eternal song  
Waits 'till our voices join the strain.  
Room—room amid the choral throng  
Who praise the Lamb for sinners slain.

Yet there is room! The arms of love  
Stretch wide to welcome sinners home.  
O haste, no more in sorrow rove,  
"The Spirit and the Bride say, come."

Selected by Brother Lynn H. Miller  
from Old German Baptist Hymn Book

### THREE MEALTIME MESSAGES

One of the things we associate with Thanksgiving is a large meal. It reminds us of the bountifulness of God's material provision. As we partake of our ample Thanksgiving meals, we might consider the words of Jesus as He ate with the Pharisees. During that meal, He gave three mealtime messages as recorded in Luke 14:7-24.

He first spoke of a banquet where some would be honored with a seat at the head table. He taught that a person should be concerned lest he would assume too much about his own worthiness. His parable pictured the difference between two men. One man came into the banquet hall and sought out a seat at the head table. He assumed that he should have a seat among the honored guests. At a wedding feast, usually there is a table reserved for the Bride and Groom and the closet members of the wedding party and their families. When the honored guests began to arrive, the governor of that feast must inform this man that he could not have such a prominent seat. The second man entered the banquet hall and sought out a seat near the back of the room, about as far from the head table as possible. The governor came to him and asked him to take a seat with the honored guests. Jesus asked the question about which would be the more highly honored by their fellows, the one who had assumed his right to be at the head table, then being asked to take a lower seat, or the one who had humbled himself enough to take a lower seat origi-

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#### THE BIBLE MONITOR

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nally, but then was called to come to a higher seat. People appreciate those who humble themselves. Jesus contended with the Pharisees and their self-serving tactics.

He spoke next of the meal that would be shared with those who are needy. It is often the custom to invite others who will in turn invite us to eat with them. This exchange of meals becomes a part of our social life. Jesus is concerned that we not forget others who are too poor to repay our hospitality, but who should be invited to eat with us. Church troubles often can be traced to discrimination practiced amongst the members. The sharing of our good things should not be a weapon in the development of schisms within the church. The world will ever be divided into classes and groups, but the church should be a haven where all can meet and socialize no matter their background or economic condition. If Jesus died for all, then all should be accepted as the children of God purchased by His saving blood.

The third meal was one that was almost canceled. If the master had not been so determined to have the feast perhaps it would have been postponed. The invitations had been sent out earlier. The recipients had been notified of the day and hour of the meal. To remind them a servant was sent just before mealtime. When the servant came, they all began to make excuses why they could not attend the feast. Their excuses were flimsy, but for some reason they did not want to attend this feast. Perhaps they did not wish to associate with the master for he was a man with high Spiritual credentials. They may have been uneasy around him because their spiritual lives were lacking.

Their excuses would not stand investigation. A man does not buy property without examining it. A man would not buy five yoke of oxen without trying them. That would be ten oxen, a major investment, for a farmer of that day. It would be the equivalent of buying a tractor sight unseen. Certainly a man getting married would know the date of his wedding so he could decline an invitation when he first received it. Those making excuses would face the wrath of the disappointed master in the future. Now he would offer his feast to those from the highways, byways and hedges of the world. Many of a dying world have neglected God's offer with excuses just as flimsy as theirs. He made his offer to a broader



population than just the Jews who had made their excuses for not accepting Him when He came to them.

As we gather for our Thanksgiving dinners, may we remember the words of Jesus. He warned of self-seeking pride, of an interest in the welfare of those who can not provide for themselves and of the futility of excuses. He wants us to appreciate the good things that God has shared with us. He wants us to share those things with others. He wants us to share not only the material blessings that we have received but also the Spiritual blessings.

We all want a place at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. We must conduct ourselves in this life as we would conduct ourselves when present at that meal. There will be no place there for pride, selfishness or excuses.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving.

M.C.Cook

### **"HATH GOD SAID"**

I can only but imagine what it was like to rise up early in the morning and gaze upon a beautiful sunrise as it cast a radiant glow over the garden of Eden. To smell the air in all its freshness, to behold the beautiful river that went out of Eden. I can only imagine what beautiful fruit must have hanged upon those trees, especially the tree found in the midst of the garden, the tree of life. Imagine to be partakers of it all and live in such harmony forever! What blessing God had bestowed upon man!

But alas in the midst of this paradise came the serpent, imagine him if you will, sneaking, slithering, more subtle than any beast in the field. His sole purpose? To rob man of his place in paradise, and rob man is exactly what he did. Did he have to force man? Did he physically have to feed it to Eve? Did he barter or offer a trade? No, he used the tactic he is best at, deception.

There are two ways Satan causes man to stumble. He used them both on Eve, the first thing he did was to doubt or raise a question about what God hath said. "Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?"

Satan knew exactly what God had said, his question was intended rather to raise doubt in the mind of Eve that he might convince her of the lie.

"Ye shall not surely die." Satan still this day tries to fill man's heart and mind with doubt. Still he raises the question "Hath God said."

"Hath God really said" what He said about being born again? "Hath God really said" what He said about water baptism? And, "Hath God really said" what He said about separation from the world? "Hath God really said" what He said about immodesty? And, "Hath God really said" what He said about adultery? "Hath God really said" what He said about submission and unity? And has Satan still to this day been saying "Ye shall not surely die."

Brethren, God has said what He said and He means what He says.

The second thing Satan does is make sin look attractive to man. "For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil."

"And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her and he did eat." Gen. 3:5-6

The forbidden fruit of the world still is very much attractive to man. Fashion, entertainment, gambling and carousing, strong drink, tobacco, love of material things, evil sensual things, and desires of the flesh, love of power and prestige and on and on.

But is it worth being separated from God? "And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden." Gen. 3:8.

Never does Satan reveal the outcome of sin and disobedience but rather wants us to believe, "Ye shall not surely die."

I can but imagine the regret Adam must have felt as he took one last look at the garden as he was being cast out. "So he drove out the man: and he placed at the east of the garden of

Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life." Gen. 3:24

I am sure that the rich man with uttermost regret looked upon Lazarus in Abraham's bosom when he realized what could have been, but alas is now too late, for the door of opportunity had been forever shut.

Is sin and pleasure for a season worth eternity apart from God? Indeed it is not.

But praise and honour and glory be to God who has made a way back to paradise for this man who is so easily deceived. "...though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land:" Isaiah 1:18-19

When Adam went from Paradise  
In sorrow for his fate  
The Father set the sword of love  
Across the open gate  
He placed the sword in an angel's hand  
And bid him keep the guard,  
And the cherubs paused in their ceaseless chant  
To hear the Holy Word.

"By love alone shall the gate be held,  
This is My perfect will  
When love brings Adam back again  
He shall find it open still."

The Lamb slipped down from the heavenly throne  
In haste the way to find.  
He stayed not even to ask for leave  
For He knew the Father's mind  
Swiftly he sped, nor did he wait  
The flaming sword to dodge,  
He darted straight through the open gate  
And hid in Adam's lodge.



Long were the years of toil and pain,  
And fierce the fight with sin;  
But wherever Adam made his home  
The lamb was hid therein.

When a star shone down from Paradise  
To mark the time and place  
The lamb came forth from Adam's lodge  
And man beheld his face.

Year after year the angel stood  
Watching the earthward track,  
And ever he held the open gate  
Till he saw the Lamb come back.

His feet were bleeding, his eyes were dim,  
His fleece was scarred and torn,  
A cross was branded upon his back  
And his head was crowned with thorn.

The Angel dropped the Flaming sword  
And fell upon his knee.

"Now welcome Lord to the gate," he cried,  
"Tis open still for Thee."

The Lamb passed in to Paradise.

Loud sang the cherubim!

For he came not alone to His Father's throne,  
Adam returned with Him.

What a wonderful God of Mercy who extends to man mercy, if  
only man would believe and do "What God hath said."

In His service,  
Brother Stephen G. Aldinger, Sr.

### **FEASTING ON HEAVENLY MANNA**

"Because they believed not in God, and trusted not in his salvation: Though he had commanded the clouds from above, and opened the doors of heaven, And had rained down manna upon them to eat, and had given them of the corn of heaven. Man did

eat angels' food: he sent them meat to the full." Psalm 78:22-25

"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it." Revelation 2:17

"But he said unto them, I have meat to eat that ye know not of." John 4:32

The earthly church, like the Israelites, have set their eyes on things of this world until they have come to the point where they believe not in the true God. Neither do they trust in His salvation. At this season of Thanksgiving we want to praise God and give Him the glory for all the blessings we enjoy. It is right and good to thank Him for the necessities of life. But do we truly appreciate the spiritual blessings of God?

When God commanded the clouds from above, and opened the doors of heaven, and had rained down manna upon them to eat, this was a miracle. Church leaders who deny the miracles of the Bible have all sorts of explanations for these phenomena. But they cannot explain why the food from Heaven, which the Psalmist calls the corn of heaven, would only be eatable if used on the day it was given but yet lasted over the Sabbath Day. The Bible says that man did eat angels' food. Now, we do not know if angels eat on a regular basis or not. But we do know that on special occasions when visiting earth on a mission from God they did partake of nourishment. The point we wish to make is this was truly heavenly food. And the Bible says that God sent them meat to the full. The song writer says, (as close as we remember, we were not able to locate the song),

"The windows of Heaven are open,  
The blessings of Heaven come down,  
There's joy, joy, joy in my soul  
Since Jesus made everything right.  
I gave him my old tattered garment,  
He gave me a robe of pure white,  
I'm feasting on Heavenly manna,  
And that's why I'm happy tonight." Hallelujah!

May we hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches. The Bible says to him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna. Popular Christianity tells you that there is no overcoming included in salvation. I John 5:3-4 instructs us, "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous. For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." We believe God rained down spiritual manna upon our Brethren forefathers and gave them the knowledge of Spirit and Truth. Do we give thanksgiving for this? The trend seems to be to separate Spirit from Truth with the emphasis being on Spirit.

When our hearts are full of thanksgiving there will be emotion felt. We are not sure how emotional our Brethren forefathers were in their meetings but we have read that it was common practice to raise hands, literally, during times of prayer. We are aware that emotion can get out of hand, but it is our opinion that God is not displeased with a genuine "Praise the Lord", "Amen", or "Hallelujah". Some may wipe a tear of joy from their eyes. Others may merely sit quietly while feeling the glory of the Lord within their soul and body.

We do not pretend to know the meaning of the white stone or even what all is involved in the new name that will be given. But when we read and hear of our future in Heaven it should make the most sober minded individual rejoice in spirit.

The disciples were concerned about Jesus' lack of natural nourishment. His reply was that He had meat to eat that they knew not of. Jesus had just had an encounter with a Samaritan woman. He asked her for a drink of water. The Jews had no dealings with the Samaritans. Furthermore, Jewish men did not talk to women in public unless they were their wives or perhaps other relation. Even then women were considered to be unable to discuss things of importance. Jesus removed this wall of separation. While it is important that we not give an opening for questioning our intentions, we dare not be swayed by opinions of men when led by the Holy Spirit. Let us thank God for this leading.

The issue with the woman was water. She had her thoughts



on physical water while Christ told her of spiritual water. She then wanted to enter into a theological debate. Jesus merely led her into spiritual truth. While it is important to be clear in theological matters, we will miss out on God's heavenly manna if we allow debate to destroy our spiritual blessing. However, there is a difference between theological debate and proclaiming Spiritual truth. Jesus plainly told the woman that she did not know what she believed. Do we know what we believe and why we believe it? He then told her that salvation is of the Jews. Is our salvation based on Scripture or on the opinions of men?

Brothers and sisters are we desiring to feast on heavenly manna? Are our hearts filled with thanksgiving to the true God? Not only the month that this country calls for thanksgiving but all year through do our voices ring out in thanksgiving and praise in our song services. As we go about our daily tasks do we think on things of the Lord and give thanks?

May the joy of the Lord be our strength. May the glory of the Lord fill our soul. May our body be quickened by the Holy Spirit. May we truly be thankful people as we worship God in Spirit and in Truth. Then the heavenly manna will fill completely. Amen!

Brother James M. Hite  
816 E. Birch St.  
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## **PAUL MEETS TIMOTHY**

Acts 16:1-18

As Paul and Silas began their "second missionary trip," they retraced some of the route they had followed during their first missionary journey. Lystra was one such city where Paul and Barnabas had been before. In fact, Lystra was where a lame man was healed, and the people had nearly worshipped Paul and Barnabas as a god. But after some Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, the people stoned Paul, and left him for dead. This did not keep Paul from returning to Lystra!

At Lystra, within the church, was a young man named Timotheus, whom the Bible calls a disciple. Timothy's mother was

a Jew who believed, but his father was an unbelieving Gentile (Greek). Timothy was an unusual young man. He enjoyed a good report among the brethren of Lystra and Iconium. In fact, he showed so much potential that Paul decided to take Timothy along with him on his missionary journey.

Paul and Silas and company continued through the cities that they covered during the first missionary journey, teaching and preaching, and the churches were established deeper in the faith.

Then something "strange" began happening. The Holy Spirit began to hold back. Verse 6 says they "were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia." I wonder what that means? I wonder how the Holy Spirit forbade them? When Paul was stoned, there is no reference to the Holy Spirit forbidding them. But here, the Holy Spirit wanted them to move into other places. They were forbidden from preaching in Asia, Mysia, and Bithynia. This was Paul's home territory. I am sure he was wondering what was going on.

God had a work for Paul to do on the other side of the Aegean Sea. He had a vision about someone from Macedonia calling for help. There were no questions. Paul and company simply went in obedience to the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

Note carefully how the word "they" (verse 6) changes into "we" (verse 10). Somewhere in this paragraph, Luke joined them. You will see "we" all the rest of the way through the Book of Acts.

Paul and group went to the region of Macedonia. They began ministering at Philippi (the capital). There was a good reception to the Word as it was preached. A very prominent business woman became a Christian and provided lodging and hospitality for the traveling ministry team.

**Summary Thought...**How well "in tune" are you with the prompting of the Holy Spirit? Does God ever talk back to you in prayer and through reading His Word?

Respectfully Submitted,  
Brother Robert S. Lehig



## A MAN IN THE GAP

"And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none." Ezekiel 22:30.

There are several examples of intercession found in the Bible. Several places speak of God looking for someone to "make up the hedge," or "stand in the gap." Often there was none. Moses interceded for his people. So did Abraham and Jeremiah and Isaiah. Psalm 106:23 speaks of Moses. "Therefore he said that he would destroy them, had not Moses his chosen stood before him in the breach, to turn away his wrath, lest he should destroy them." Think of the power that Moses had with God!

Yet there was one more who, as He hung on a cruel cross and as they divided His worldly property among them, said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34) In John 17 He said, "I pray for them." He stood in the gap between man and God. He was God, and He became a man that He could pay that ultimate sacrifice for the sins of mankind. He made it possible for me (and for you) to approach God and to have God indwell us and abide with us forever. He was Jesus Christ, and today He sits at the right hand of God interceding on behalf of God's people.

Today we as Christians must intercede on behalf of others. James 5:16 states, "...and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." Has not this world forgotten God? Do we not have loved ones, even our own households that live in sin? When God threatened to destroy Sodom, did not Abraham ask him, "Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked?" (Gen. 18:23) He was interceding for his nephew, Lot. Lot had made an unwise choice. How often that is the case with us. After a while we are in too deep. Christ rescued us from sin that by rights we should have been punished for, in everlasting fire. God is righteous and cannot even look upon sin. Christ is our righteousness because we are unable to attain it on our own.

It is said that there was a hedge around God's people. Often this hedge, through sin, would be broken down. God needed some-



one to "stand in the gap" and "make up the hedge." Everyone who names the Name of Christ is responsible to others, that they may learn of the goodness of God. There are those of special offices, as in Galatians 3:5, "he therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you;" these are the ministry. They minister the Word and the Spirit. John 5:39 says, "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me." Also, in John 15:26, "...even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me." Both the Word and the Spirit point others to Jesus. The work of the ministry is to stand in the gap: to point others to Jesus. Who will stand in the gap?

Brother Lynn H. Miller  
70 Round Barn Road  
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## KENYA KNOTES

September 1, Sunday

Rays went to Chepcornishwa, and we stayed here. James preached a good sermon this morning; it was nice to hear him again. The church was really full this morning, so that was nice. Jeremiah had the service at 4:00 P.M. Hosea and Florence missed church tonight. Florence has been sick and her blood pressure is very high. He took her to the clinic, and was sent to the hospital. Ray, Cheryl, Jeremiah and I went to visit her this evening. She doesn't look good, and really needs prayer. We visited a while with her and prayed for her. We stopped in to see the triplets and left bottles for them. They are looking fine, but so tiny! Florence says the mother is barely twenty years old, and she has a two year old also! She seems to be doing well. We had a nice evening.

This is Jere. I want to thank you for your letters. I'm sorry I don't get many written. I'm very glad that Debra writes every day. I am done with the plumbing and most of the electrical. The roof is almost on the whole house. The last tiles (for the roof) will be coming on the 8th. The guys are smooth plastering the walls. They have two bedrooms, the one bathroom, and about half of the living room/dining/kitchen done (if that doesn't make sense I

mean that the kitchen and dining are on one side of the main room and the living room is on the other), also they are starting on the back bedrooms now. I ran the supply line for water to the house but I have two leaks that I'll have to fix after I get the new fittings.

However, I talked with Hosea today and he really feels like that I need to stop working on the house and start teaching in earnest around to the different churches. That is really my desire, but the mission board would like to see the house finished. I really feel pulled, the church is really suffering in many places. They barely know what the Bible says let alone doctrines of the Scripture. (Hosea really has a way of getting me going.) Please pray for the work here and that I could make the right decision. JJ

September 2, Monday

Swahili class was on numbers this morning. I had a hard time concentrating with everything going on. Swahili numbers are inconsistent, I think!

With Florence's house lady gone, Freddie, the oldest boy at home who is twelve or thirteen, is cooking. The younger boys are complaining, "Mchele, mchele, mchele - that's all we eat when Freddie is cooking." I guess rice (Mchele) is easier to cook than other things. The house lady came back tonight, which was a relief to Hosea and Florence.

September 3, Tuesday

Swahili class went well today, but sometimes I think I need a baby-sitter. Nancy helped me make a picnic lunch and we left for Kitale around 10:30. I had a pretty good day getting what was on my list, but Jeremiah felt like it was all a waste on his side. He even had to wait in line at the bank for exactly an hour. He had Micaiah and Jerusha with him too! It was so hot and Jerusha kept wanting to pick up the cigarette butts on the concrete.

I went down to see Florence who had been released from the hospital. She was so happy to be home! She talked and talked. She felt like God was working for her and seemed really cheerful!! She is grateful for all the prayers from America for her. Her boys seemed happy to have their mama home. They all sat around her in the yard as she rested. Her blood pressure is down, thankfully.



Today was Kimberly's 7th birthday, and we had a party for her tonight. It was a fun evening!

September 4, Wednesday

We haven't had any rain recently and so we had a line of people for water today. Finally the pump shut off and Ray sent them home. Florence came down to have Cheryl take her blood pressure. The lower reading was around 80, so she's doing well with it. She isn't taking her medicine from the doctor; she is only taking what we gave her. She had complete confidence in that, I guess she should know! She seems rather weak yet, especially in her right hand. She told me yesterday that when she was four months pregnant with her youngest (Andrew) she had a stroke and could not talk for ten days. She was in bed for months then, and in the hospital a lot of that time, so she has been through a lot with her heart already.

September 5, Thursday

Florence's blood pressure was good again today, but her hand is still weak. She complained that she can't cut out dresses like this, and Hosea is falling apart without her in the shop! I think it might be partly good; at least she will rest longer this way!

Emelda lead the women's meeting today. After the meeting Cheryl gave the women all the containers we wash and save. They were a happy crowd then! Most of us went down and visited Florence after the meeting. We sang a song and prayed for her. Florence is definitely a little draggy, but pretty cheerful.

September 6, Friday

Today was the Kenya Mission Board meeting, so the guys were busy with that. They had the meeting at Hosea and Florence's house. Emelda came this afternoon and said she'd had a boy bring a message to her about Agnes Omondi. She was in the hospital in bad condition. So after a while Cheryl, Emelda, and I went to the hospital to visit Agnes. We found her in the women's ward, resting. I guess she's just been overdoing it helping her sister with the triplets. One doctor thought she'd need surgery, but another gave her medicine that is helping her a lot. We were glad to hear that she is doing better. we had a nice little visit with her there. She really needs rest.



## September 7, Saturday

It was a busy day for me; laundry, housecleaning, and so forth. James was here most of the day doing secretarial work for the KMB. By the end of the day he looked strung out. He said his brain was so tired of English, he thought he could go crazy! I can believe it must be a job to do so much work in a language not your own. I am just starting to understand that!

Jeremiah worked on the shower and sink drainline. It was plugged since last Saturday. Ray had dug three holes in the yard and hadn't found the plug. Jeremiah dug three additional holes back around the house, and finally found the plug. It looked as if a mole (or St. Bernard dog!) had been loose in the lawn. He fixed the line and Hosea Potea helped fill in the holes. It's nice to have that finished.

## September 8, Sunday

We went to Chesebet today, and Noeckers stayed here. James, Emelda, Cadelda (her niece that they've adopted), and Frank went with us. The ride up there wasn't too bad, besides being extremely bumpy. I had the younger two in car seats, so that helped. The people were ready to start church as we arrived at 10:00 A.M., and we were soon started. I enjoyed the first two hours of the service. James taught Sunday School. His topic was "Nonresistance", and the people seemed very receptive. Visitor and testimony time seemed long. Jeremiah got up to preach. Church dismissed after 1:15. By then it was raining so hard on that tin roof that you couldn't even hear the speaker. They soon brought our dinner of beef and broth, rice and chapati. We soon headed home. The roads were wet, and very slippery. It was like Pennsylvania roads in a snowstorm! We were so thankful for the cruiser, the van would have taken three times as long to get home, and we'd have been pushing a LOT. Jeremiah put it in four wheel drive and we went! Though, one time we went sideways up a hill. I couldn't believe we just kept going! We were thankful to get home. Jeremiah preached here for the evening service.

## September 9, Monday

The computer is very occupied with the men trying to catch up on the financial records these days. What a joy!

Cheryl, Emelda, Alice and I went to Edwin and Jane's house to "pray for their baby" this afternoon. It is the custom when the baby boy is eight days (and the girl is fourteen days) to have a time of prayer and encouragement for the mother. We had a nice visit with lots of conversation. Edwin's fourth "boy blessing" is "Little Ray." The twins were sleeping when we got there and woke quickly. They were afraid we had come to take their baby! It was nice to see that they really like their new brother! It was an edifying visit.

September 10, Tuesday

Swahili class was complicated today, as we learned about prepositions! You have to know English rules to learn another language. We walked up to the new house and watched the men plastering. Those walls are so nice and smooth! They think they will be done plastering in a week or so! Ray was putting up door frames in the bedrooms on the south end of the house.

Jeremiah planted some plants in front of the house while I made a picnic lunch. We left at 11:30 and headed north toward Paraywa. I'll say again, Kenya is a beautiful country! We got out to gaze across a huge expanse of country, and some Pokot women and children came to greet us. It is nice to be able to communicate more!

We wanted to eat our lunch without an audience so we found an out-of-the-way place and stopped. We climbed a steep hill and sat on top where we could look down on both sides. It was really neat; huts, shambas, and cattle all around. Micaiah made a discovery. He said, "The big sun shines on ALL the houses!" He'd apparently thought that each house had its own sun. We had a nice time. Jeremiah had a rough time getting a fire burning to roast the maize he grabbed from our shamba. In the end we all smelled like Kenyans!

September 11, Wednesday

It was Jeremiah's turn to make breakfast (the guys have a breakfast every other week). He thought he couldn't do it, but with a little help (from me) we had a good breakfast. I had Hosanna doing some printing practice this morning. It was nice to see her improve in the short time I worked with her. It took me



back several years to school teaching days. But, my, she has a lot of refining before she is a school girl! I think this is good for her. It's good for me too, though it stretches my patience! Ray and Nancy went to Kitale for supplies. This afternoon Jeremiah and James went around to fill out the member records for the Makutano Congregation. This is part of our effort to get to know the people better, and be able to start school support. They did really well, and got around to about a dozen places. Jeremiah didn't eat dinner or supper. He said he had so much tea, he felt like he was floating! Jeremiah didn't come until 7:15.

September 12, Thursday

Cheryl had the women's meeting today. She talked about our body being the "temple of the Holy Ghost" and not abusing it. It was interesting to hear the discussion. A young pregnant woman came about the time of the meeting. You could see she was really sick. She wanted help with medicine and hospital bills. We found out she is one of several wives and her husband doesn't care about her, whether she lives or dies. It looked like she had TB. We really felt for her, and wondered whether anyone cared about her. I also wondered about the little baby coming. We gave her medicine and are praying for her.

Jeremiah and James were going around visiting church members again today. I almost envied him for being able to see where these people live! I only get to the homes if there is a baby shower, it seems. But if I went, they would for sure want to serve us food!

September 14, Saturday

This was Rays' day off and they wanted to leave early. Men came from Chepkorniswa to discuss the water project there, and then it took a while before Noeckers were able to leave.

I walked to Makutano with Nancy after dinner. It was a lot of fun and quite relaxing. Nancy goes every day so they are used to her, and they really didn't pay much attention to us. We went down into the clothes market. That has really gotten better! I was able to find some nice (used) clothes for the children. I'm getting to have to do that every now and then; living in Kenya is so hard on clothes.

Andrew is six today, and it was so cute watching him with a



cake and presents. He had to make a little speech and say a memory verse before he could have the cake and presents. No wonder Kenyans like to talk. They start them at six! He is shy and Hosea told him every word to say.

September 15, Sunday

We stayed at Makutano, and Noeckers went to Ortum for church. It was a good service, with Hosea preaching. Gilbert is back from his home-place, and he translated for Hosea. The service was over at 12:30. Jeremiah had several people to talk to (with requests for help) after church. Jeremiah preached this evening, and Noeckers didn't get home until 4:30 or so.

September 16, Monday

This afternoon Cheryl was out working in the flower beds by the gate when a man came and began helping her. She said he did pretty good work, but he was obviously not sober. He kept stumbling around as he tried to hoe, making her a little nervous that one of them might get hurt. She couldn't help but laugh at him! He talked the entire time, mostly in Swahili. She just kept saying "uh-huh". When the job was done, he went home. She said he made it interesting anyway!

September 17, Tuesday

This was our day off and we decided to go to Kitale. We left around 10 and were able to go slowly and enjoy the day. We did most of the regular stops. Several times we watched a monkey on the streetside. James went along and he thought it had escaped from a game park nearby. It had a crowd of people watching it and feeding it. They gave it carrots, bananas, mangoes, and papaya. One man tried to give it a cigarette, but it didn't even come close for that! I think the monkey had to have been stuffed for as much as it ate! It walked on the roof of the street houses and the people on the second story shut their windows. I guess they didn't want a visitor! Our children loved it, and decided it must be a daddy monkey, because it had a beard!

Jeremiah left before supper with the ministers and they visited some church members. He got home when the children were ready for bed.

September 18, Wednesday

Jeremiah had scheduled to go visit members at Chesebet today. Since I was sick I wasn't too excited about his going for all day. But he and James left around 10:00 A.M., and didn't get back till 7:45 P.M. He had quite a day. He thought they'd drive the cruiser between houses. Instead, he parked it on the main road and walked a loooong way to the first house, then on uuuup to the next, and up to several more houses. Then they went down the steep mountain, and down, and down, stopping to visit more members along the way. Everywhere they went was either a steep ascent, or a steep descent! He said they have nice compounds, but they live so far from town centers! Most of the children go to school, and some have to walk an hour and a half to school every day. Imagine that! The people of Chesebet are very hospitable, and the guys got plenty to eat and drink all day. They had to turn a lot of it down. Jeremiah hopes he's not getting turned on Kenya chai (tea)! He saw a lot of beautiful scenery and interesting plants, and he brought home a huge cutting to stick in the ground. He had a good day, but he has to go tomorrow to finish visits!

Hello, this is Jere.

On Wednesday I went to Chesubet. It is in the mountains. We left about 10:00, got there about 11:00 or so. We parked the Cruiser at the bottom of a hill and walked up up up to Joseph Okemo's house (he's the representative (pastor) of the Chesubet church) After interviewing him and his wife she brought out chai and chapatti. (I restrained myself to one cup; I figured more was coming.) His wife seemed disappointed that we didn't take more. I've had a hard time getting back into enjoying chai because last week I had it several times (possible 10-12 cups in two days) that wasn't so bad but at the end of the second day on the last cup I noticed that there was some water on the inside (probably from where she had washed it). Well, I really knew better and I should've just wiped it out but that seemed rather rude so I left it. Well, I WAS SORRY.

Back to the story. After chai we (Joseph, James, and I) left and went up up to the next house. It was some widow lady. Interview more chai. Up up up, over, down down around through



someone's plowed field and through a couple compounds then we finally got to the house. It was a home of single mom. She had about five children. We refused chai there. Then off again, through someone's maize, and down down the other side of the mountain (remember this is all walking) across a little creek then through more fields and up up up to another house, where a man and his wife were just saved a few months ago. In interviewing them we found out that their 3-4 children ages around 11-7 years, leave for school at 6:30 and walk for one and a half to two hours!!! Can you imagine? There we were about to leave, by now it was 1:00. They said "ngoja kidogo" (wait a little). So they brought out...you guessed it CHAI but then they also had a fried egg to accompany the chai (one egg each). From there it was a long walk to the next place, about a half hour of up down. This place had several children and there was an extra man there that wanted us to sponsor his trip to USA. We told him that it wasn't really in our mission statement! Here they fed us rice and potatoes together. They must have been boiled in broth because it had a pretty good flavor, but was rather dry. It is amazing how good something can taste when you are really hungry. (NOTE: these comments are not complaining just information to help you imagine that you were here.)

After that place it was down the mountain and over a fairly wide river by hopping on rocks. Then up through a cow pasture into someone's compound (apparently we were kind of lost because after some inquiry we were off again). Finally, to the next house was the home of this Mzee (old man - term of respect). He was born in 1928, his wife was born in 1948, they were married in 1957!! (Do the math.) He was able to marry her because she was circumcised and considered a woman!!! She had fourteen children; they are now raising five or six of their grandchildren. (Tradition is if you have an illegitimate child and you marry someone else you just leave it with your mom and dad.) Anyway, there they fed us rice and beans in a little soup and more chai.

After that it was more up and down, more houses, more forms, but we just kept refusing to take chai or eat as it was getting late and we were a long way from the cruiser. As we got to this point in the day I started to pay more attention to the plant life and landscape. You might think that it is rather funny to spend a day and



not take much notice. But if you would've saw the paths we were on you wouldn't have noticed much besides how your feet look trying to find a decent place to step.JJ

## SHIPWRECK

The only survivor of a shipwreck was washed up on a small, uninhabited island. He prayed feverishly for God to rescue him. Every day he scanned the horizon for help, but none seemed forthcoming. Exhausted, he eventually managed to build a little hut out of driftwood to protect himself from the elements and to store his few possessions.

One day, after scavenging for food, he arrived home to find his little hut in flames, the smoke rolling up to the sky. The worse had happened; everything was lost. He was stunned with grief and anger. "God, how could you do this to me!" he cried.

Early the next day, however, he was awakened by the sound of a ship that was approaching the island. It had come to rescue him. "How did you know I was here?" asked the weary man of his rescuers. "We saw your smoke signal," they replied.

It is easy to get discouraged when things are going bad. We shouldn't lose heart, because God is at work in our lives, even in the midst of pain and suffering.

Remember, next time your little hut is burning to the ground it just may be a smoke signal that summons the grace of God.

For all the negative things we have to say to ourselves, God has a positive answer for it:

You say: "It's impossible" God says: All things are possible (Luke 18:27).

You say: "I'm too tired" God says: I will give you rest (Matthew 11:28-30).

You say: "Nobody really loves me" God says: I love you (John 3:16 & John 13:34).

You say: I can't go on" God says: My grace is sufficient (II Corinthians 12:9 & Psalm 91:15).

You say: "I can't figure things out" God says: I will direct your

steps (Proverbs 3:5-6).

You say: "I can't do it" God says: You can do all things (Philippians 4:13).

You say: "I'm not able" God says: I am able (II Corinthians 9:8).

You say: "It's not worth it" God says: It will be worth it (Romans 8:28).

You say: "I can't forgive myself" God says I FORGIVE YOU (I John 1:9 & Romans 8:1).

You say: "I can't manage" God says: I will supply all your needs (Philippians 4:19).

You say: "I'm afraid" God says: I have not given you a spirit of fear (II Timothy 1:7).

You say: "I'm always worried and frustrated" God says: Cast all your cares on ME (I Peter 5:7).

You say: "I don't have enough faith" God says: I've given everyone a measure of faith (Romans 12:3).

You say: "I'm not smart enough" God says: I give you wisdom (I Corinthians 1:30).

You say: "I feel all alone" God says: I will never leave you or forsake you (Hebrews 13:5).

Selected from the Fish Wrapper  
by Sister Mary Stump

## OBITUARY

### DOROTHY BLOCHER

Sister Dorothy Marie Blocher was born, September 4, 1927, at Waterford, California to Harry and Gracie (Root) Andrews. After a lengthy illness, she went to be with her Lord on, September 29, 2002, at the age of 75 years and 25 days. She passed away at the Randolph Nursing Home in Winchester, Indiana.

At the tender age of twelve, she gave her heart to the Lord and remained faithful until her death. At the time of her passing, she was a member of the Englewood Dunkard Brethren Church.

On May 2, 1947, she married Earl Blocher. They lived at Grandview and Belton, Missouri, Waterford, Snelling, Ceres, and Modesto, California. In 1959 they moved to Union, Ohio. In the fall of 1961, they moved to Ithaca, Ohio. Later in 1978, Daddy and Mother moved to Braffetsville, Indiana and in 1989 they moved to Lynn, Indiana. To this union were born five children, Bernice Fosberg of Medway, Ohio, Freda Heisey of Taylorsville, Mississippi, Ruth Keeny of Fawn Grove, Pennsylvania, Stephen Blocher of Bradford, Ohio, and Rebecca Stalter of New Paris, Indiana. In 1970 they adopted Craig Blocher of Greenville, Ohio.

Dorothy was a very loving and faithful wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. She lived her faith in word and deed. She will be greatly missed by her family and by all that knew her.

She is survived by her husband of fifty-five years, Earl Blocher, step-mother, Lucille Andrews of Dallas Center, Iowa, four daughters, Bernice, Freda, Ruth, Rebecca, and two sons, Stephen and Craig, twenty-two grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, a sister, Miriam Reed, two brothers Marvin and Larry Andrews and a host of friends and relatives.

Dorothy was preceded in death by her father, mother, infant brother, and an infant grandchild.

Viewing was held at the Hale-Sarver Funeral Home in West Milton, Ohio. Funeral services were held on October 3, 2002, at 10:00 at Englewood Dunkard Brethren Church with Elder Fred Pifer of Dallas Center, Iowa officiating. Burial was at Royal Oaks Memorial Gardens in Brookville with Brother Roger Keeny officiating. Two poems written by the family were read at the church and a favorite song of Mother's was read at the graveside service.

The family wishes to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, and other expressions of thoughtfulness during the time of her illness and bereavement.

#### GRANDMA HAS GONE TO HEAVEN

Grandma has gone to heaven  
Forever to be there.



She's singing with the angels  
Free from pain and care.

I know that she is happy,  
As happy as could be,  
For she's up there with Jesus  
To reign eternally.

She's walking and talking with Jesus-  
Walking the streets of pure gold.  
She's singing with a beautiful voice,  
Songs that will never grow old.

She'll never be sickly again,  
And lie on a bed in pain.  
Jesus will give her a new body  
With senses that never wane.

I miss you, Grandma dear,  
But you went to a better place  
Where no more sorrows will ever come,  
And you will see Jesus face to face.

Written by granddaughter Diana Stalter

## MOTHER HAS GONE HOME

Mother has gone Home.  
On this earth, we no more shall see,  
To be with her mother and father  
On that far off crystal sea.

She's gone where hearts aren't broken.  
No heartaches or tear-filled eyes,  
No weariness, sorrow, or pain  
Will reach her Home in the skies.

She'll have no disappointments there  
Shattered hopes will never cloud the skies  
Or her view of eternal hope  
Mother has gone Home on high.

Mother was tired and weary  
For twelve months she waited here  
To be called by her Heavenly Father  
Waiting for His words of cheer.

"Welcome Home, my child,  
Enter into the joys of my rest,  
Leave behind your earthly struggles  
Leave behind your trials and tests."

You've been patient in suffering  
We, your family will remember this.  
And now to see you asleep  
We wish you all Heaven's bliss.

What a reunion in Heaven  
When your face again we shall see  
When we come Home to glory  
All the happiness there'll be!

-Your family

The following was a favorite song of Sister Dorothy.

#### NO DISAPPOINTMENT IN HEAVEN

There's no disappointment in heaven,  
No weariness, sorrow or pain;  
No hearts that are bleeding and broken,  
No song with a minor refrain;  
The clouds of our earthly horizon  
Will never appear in the sky,  
For all will be sunshine and gladness,  
With never a sob nor a sigh.

We'll never pay rent for our mansion,  
The taxes will never come due;  
Our garments will never grow threadbare,  
But always be fadeless and new;  
We'll never be hungry nor thirsty,  
Nor languish in poverty there,

For all the rich bounties of heaven  
His sanctified children will share.

There'll never be crepe on the doorknob,  
No funeral train in the sky;  
No graves on the hillsides of glory,  
For there we shall nevermore die;  
The old will be young there forever,  
Transformed in a moment of time;  
Immortal we'll stand in His likeness,  
The stars and the sun to outshine.

I'm bound for that beautiful city  
My Lord has prepared for His own;  
Where all the redeemed of all ages  
Sing "glory" around the white throne;  
Sometimes I grow homesick for heaven,  
And the glories I there shall behold;  
What a joy that will be when my Savior I see,  
In that beautiful city of gold!

-F. H. Lehman

### **BURKHOLDER-DILLER**

Sis. Leanna Hess Burkholder and Bro. Scott Lester Diller were united in marriage, September 21, 2002. They are residing at 15 Strausstown Road, Bethel, PA 19507

### **NEWS ITEMS**

#### **CLEARVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA**

The Clearville Congregation is looking forward to a Weekend Revival meeting on November 15, 16 and end on the 17, 2002. Brother David Aungst will be our evangelist. Services start at 7:30 P.M. nightly and Sunday morning service at 10:00 A.M. and Sunday night service also at 7:30 P.M. On Sunday we will have a fellowship meal following our morning service. Please pray for our revival and the speaker. All are welcome to come.

Sister Benita Bollman, Cor.



## THANKS

Heartfelt thanks to all who prayed, called or sent cards of encouragement to us after Alan's accident. Every one was appreciated and meant so much. We have felt God's sustaining hand through it all and are so thankful for His love and faithfulness. Thank you for caring and may He bless you richly.

In Him,

Brother Alan and Sister Brenda Meyers

## BRETHREN HERITAGE CENTER

I know some of you are interested in the progress of The Brethren Heritage Center at Brookville, Ohio. The board and a few other people have been meeting almost every month for the past two years to organize and start the center. We have met twenty-two times and many hours of labor have been donated to get things under way. Progress in the first year seemed very slow but much time was spent in organizing and planning. We have seen very good progress the past six months. The renovating is completed, painting is done, carpet is laid and now shelving is being assembled. Next, the cataloging, and so forth, needs to be done. It looks like the center will be open to the public about January 1, 2003.

Brother Paul Stump

## **ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR DECEMBER 2002**

Dec. 1 - Paul's Sufferings Prove His Apostolic Claims - II Cor.  
11:16-33

1. What was Paul's purpose in listing here his sufferings?
2. In what did Paul say he would glory?

Dec. 8 - Visions and a Thorn in the Flesh - II Cor. 12:1-10

1. Who was this man in Christ that Paul knew, who was caught up to the third heaven?

2. Why did Paul take pleasure in infirmities, reproaches, necessities, persecutions, and distresses for Christ's sake?

Dec. 15 - Paul Loves the Corinthians Despite Fears of their Carnality - II Cor. 12:11-21

1. What are the signs of an apostle that were wrought among the Corinthians?
2. For what purpose did Paul do all things among the Corinthians?

Dec. 22 - The Birth of Christ - Luke 2:1-20

1. How did the political world's influence factor into the birth of Christ?
2. Why were the shepherds fearful at the appearance of the angel of the Lord?

Dec. 29 - Are You in the Faith? Prove Yourselves - II Cor. 13:1-14

1. How do we examine ourselves to know whether or not we are in the faith?
2. What did Paul mean in wishing the perfection of the Corinthians?

#### YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR DECEMBER 2002

Dec. 1 - Nonconformity - Rom. 12:1-13, I Tim. 2:8-15, I Pet. 1:13-16, 3:5, I John 2:15-17

1. How can we present our bodies as a sacrifice while we are living?

2. Contrast the words "conformed" and "transformed".

Dec. 8 - Athletics - I Cor. 9:24-27, Gal. 5:7, Phil. 3:14, Heb. 12:1-2,  
II Tim. 4:6-8

1. How does living the Christian life compare to running a foot race?
2. How is sin in our life likened unto extra weight carried by a runner in a race?

Dec. 15 - Fellowship - Gen. 5:24, 6:8-9, Ps. 73:23-28, Matt. 18:19-20, Luke 24:15-32, I John 1:3-10, John 15:4-10

1. How can we, as Enoch, "walk with God"?
2. How can we, as Noah, "find grace in the eyes of the Lord"?

Dec. 22 - The Christmas Story - Luke 2:1-33

1. What did the angel say would be a sign unto the shepherds for finding the Saviour?
2. How did the shepherds witness unto others about the birth of Christ?

Dec. 29 - Appearances - I Sam. 16:4-7, Matt. 6:1-5, 6:16-18, Luke 20:46-47, II Cor. 5:12, 10:7

1. What all is included in our appearance as the Lord seeth?
2. Why does mankind usually care more about their appearance before their fellow man, than their appearance to God?



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# BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXX

DECEMBER, 2002

NO. 12

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

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OUR MOTTO: Scriptural in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,  
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

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## BELIEVE THE BIBLE

There are some who believe the Bible,  
And some who believe in part,  
And some who trust with a reservation,  
And some with all their heart.  
But I know that its every promise  
Is firm and true always;  
It is tried as the precious silver,  
And it means just what it says.  
It is strange we trust each other,  
And only doubt our Lord;  
We will take the word of mortals,  
And yet distrust His word;  
But, Oh, what light and glory  
Would shine o'er all our days  
If we always would remember  
That He means just what He says.

-A. B. Simpson

Zondervan Publication

Selected by Sister Ruth Speicher



## BETHLEHEM

It is ironic that the little town of Bethlehem, associated with the coming of the Prince of Peace, is today in the news as a place of conflict between the Jews and the Palestinians. Various battles and hostage situations have recently taken place in this town. As Christmas approaches, there is little peace in that area.

Soldiers are stationed throughout the area, either to preserve the fragile peace or to commence another campaign of bloodshed. At the time Jesus was born, there probably were soldiers in the town. They would have been there to keep the peace. They would have kept the overflowing crowds of visitors in check so no uprising could erupt. As the people came to be counted and taxed, they may have been open to inflammatory oratory from those who were looking to overthrow the Roman government in their country. The soldiers perhaps kept a low profile, nevertheless all knew that they were there and why. There would not be any uprising in Bethlehem or anywhere else in Palestine at this season. There would be no new ruler to challenge Caesar.

The soldiers could guard the lands their Emperor claimed. The militants could attempt to incite the people to riot and revolution. The people could go on their way paying little heed to either the soldiers or the troublemakers. They could continue to exist, paying their taxes, and giving lipservice to the legalism of their professional religious leaders. After this little interruption in their routine, nothing much had changed. Bethlehem was still a sleepy

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little town, known as the boyhood home of King David of olden times.

What appeared to be just an uneventful interlude involving travel and governmental paper work, soon became something much more significant. That time and that place would be known even in our own day. An overcrowded, little town would become the place of the most dramatic event of this world's history. Probably most who were there were unaware of what happened at this counting and taxing season, but the world since has been very much aware of what happened there. The events of that season were more powerful than the military power of Rome, represented by the soldiers stationed about the town. There was meaning given to lives that were downtrodden and in despair.

It was such a simple event, yet within it was so much. There had been an untold number of births before the birth of Jesus and there have been an untold number of births since that time. Never was there a birth like this one. The physical delivery of the child was the same as God had ordained in His creation of man and woman. What was significant was the Person born at that time. This was no ordinary baby. This was the Son of God.

We can not understand how the Holy Spirit moved upon Mary that she conceived the Holy Seed. We can understand, at least in part, that God had such a tremendous love for those who had been created in His image, that He was willing to send His Son to this earth to rescue fallen man.

Adam and Eve had fallen for the deceptions of Satan in the Garden of Eden. They fell as everyone since has fallen for the same deception. Satan has appealed to each of us to betray God and to follow him, whether in something great or something small. Men have been willing to give up the benefits of obeying God to enjoy sin. Too late, men find out that Satan is a tough taskmaster. He demands more and more from those who yield to him.

Jesus' birth provided the answer. They could be delivered from their sins. They could have the power to live to please God. Jesus came to deliver men from their sin through a saving gospel. When men are willing to accept that gospel, their course in

this life and beyond will be changed. God has provided this way of escape and deliverance.

This baby was more powerful than the armies of Rome. He brought a power to change lives from the inside out. Men could be changed not just outwardly but also inwardly. His heart and soul could be set right because God sent His Son to this earth as a baby.

For those who would accept, Jesus secured these blessings not through His birth, His teaching, or His miracles, but through His death and His resurrection. His death had meaning because He was the baby born in Bethlehem. He is the Son of God who has overcome death that men might have the power to be born again and to live in God's will.

At this Christmas season, do you know why you celebrate the season? Why are you so interested in that little town of Bethlehem? Can you celebrate the coming of the Saviour, not only to Bethlehem, but also into your heart and life?

Merry Christmas

M.C.Cook

### **SENDING A SAVIOR**

"And it shall be for a sign and for a witness unto the Lord of hosts in the land of Egypt: for they shall cry unto the Lord because of the oppressors, and he shall send them a saviour, and a great one, and he shall deliver them." Isaiah 19:20

"For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body." Ephesians 5:23

"For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe." I Timothy 4:10

We know that the savior spoken of in the verse from Isaiah is Moses, humanly speaking. It is of interest to us that both Moses and Jesus were born at a time when Israel was under foreign rule. It is also interesting that both of their lives were threatened



when they were babes. Moses was rescued by an Egyptian. Mary and Joseph fled to Egypt for a sanctuary. Both Moses and Jesus were human saviors.

We know that Scripture teaches that Isaiah was also speaking of a much greater Savior, God Himself. "I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour." Isaiah 43:11. We also know that the New Testament refers to Jesus Christ as both Lord and savior. Therefore we can be assured that Jesus was not only a human savior but also God the Son.

We find from the verse taken from Ephesians that Jesus Christ is the savior of the church. There is confusion today as to what part the Church plays in the role of salvation. Some teach that salvation is **of** and **from the Church**. That church leaders have the power to forgive sin. Others teach that church rituals are your salvation. To counteract these types of teaching many say that the Church has no part in salvation. But the verses following Ephesians 5:23 leads us to the conclusion that the Church is the **agent** of salvation. First we find that the Church is to be subject unto Christ. We find that Christ loved the Church and gave himself for it. We find that He desires to sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word. These are the things needed to have Jesus Christ as your Savior. Therefore we conclude that Christ gave this **first** to the Church that it may then share it with others.

In our verse from I Timothy we find that the Church will both labor and suffer reproach. Is the Church of today, as a whole, so taken up with laboring for carnal deliverance that the spiritual deliverance has been forgotten? At this time of the year, known to the world as Christmas, the Church certainly does not desire any reproach.

We would agree with the position of leaving the recognition of this day to each member's own personal convictions. But do those who celebrate the day compromise with the world? Do we spend over our budget just to make sure we give presents to everyone? Do we buy things for our children and grandchildren that glorify television programs or personalities? Do we decorate the out-

side or inside of our homes because the world says this is the correct thing to do? Does a Christmas tree take up space in the living room?

We are to trust in the living God. When children are taught the fable of Santa Claus does this cause doubt concerning the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ? Even if they are taught that he is only make believe does it take away from the birth of Christ supposedly celebrated on this day? We must be careful we do not fall victim to the world's comparing the "spirit of Christmas" with the true Spirit.

Jesus Christ is the Savior of all men. He came to earth and took on a robe of flesh when He was born in a stable in Bethlehem that He might shed His blood for all mankind. All too many are smitten with the babe of Bethlehem and abhor the reality of why He was born. The angels announced to the shepherds at Christ's birth, "...Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people."

Jesus Christ is the Savior specially to those who believe. While Christ is the savior of all mankind, it is only beneficial to those who believe. To believe must be more than a head assent. It must be a heart action. To "accept Jesus as savior" without acknowledging Him as Lord is not enough. All do not go to Heaven, as modern Christianity teaches.

There is good and danger in the fact that the birth of Christ is heard by so many at this time of the year. We have already mentioned many of the dangers. The music emitted from the loudspeakers in eating and business establishments is often greatly improved this time of the year. However, the worldly and sacred are usually mixed together. Even the churches often change preaching time to special programs at this time of the year. It is a shame, in our opinion, that many of the "Christmas" hymns are not sung more often during the year. Is Jesus Christ **your** Lord and Savior?

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## SOSTHENES, OUR BROTHER

"Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother." I Corinthians 1:1

As you read your Bible, do you ever stop and wonder about some of the people who are mentioned in the pages of Scripture. Sometimes we are only given a name and nothing else is ever mentioned about them. As we studied the Letters to the Corinthians in the adult Sunday School classes this year just such a situation arose in the very first verse of I Corinthians.

Paul mentions Sosthenes and refers to him as "our brother". We can easily infer that Sosthenes is a companion of his as Paul is writing this letter to the Corinthians and that Sosthenes is someone known to them. He is a fellow believer in Christ and thus spiritually a brother to Paul and to the Christians in Corinth. Beyond this briefest of descriptions Paul never refers to him again in any of his letters.

Who is Sosthenes and what could he tell us if we could hear his story? How did he become a Christian and a companion of Paul? Why did Paul even bother to mention his name in his opening salutation rather than at the end of the letter along with Aquila and Priscilla and several others? While none of these questions can be answered with certainty there is one other reference to a Sosthenes in the New Testament who lived in Corinth. This is what we find out about him in the book of Acts:

"And when Gallio was the deputy of Achaia, the Jews made insurrection with one accord against Paul, and brought him to the judgment seat, Saying, This fellow persuadeth men to worship God contrary to the law. And when Paul was now about to open his mouth, Gallio said unto the Jews, If it were a matter of wrong or wicked lewdness, O ye Jews, reason would that I should bear with you: But if it be a question of words and names, and of your law, look ye to it; for I will be no judge of such matters. And he drave them from the judgment seat. Then all the Greeks took Sosthenes, the chief ruler of the synagogue, and beat him before the judgment seat. And Gallio cared for none of those things." Acts 18:12-17



This Sosthenes is the chief ruler of the synagogue in Corinth. We presume that he is a leading character in this making of insurrection against Paul. It is easy to imagine him leading a nearly riotous crowd of Jews roughly pushing Paul before Gallio, the Roman Proconsul or judge. They want to prove that Paul has been breaking Roman law with his preaching about Jesus as the Son of God and the Jewish Messiah. Their anger and hostility are soon turned to dismay. Not only is Gallio unwilling to be drawn into what he perceives as a strictly religious argument but he responds with a certain degree of hostility toward the Jews by driving them out of his courtroom. In turn his reaction is perceived as permission by other Greeks, perhaps drawn there by the rowdy behavior of the Jews, to unleash their own hostilities upon Sosthenes, the chief antagonist. Sosthenes had hoped to have Paul punished but now found himself being beaten right in front of Gallio, who paid no attention to his predicament.

If this Sosthenes is the same person that Paul is referring to in I Corinthians what a tremendous story there is for us to know. Did Paul minister to Sosthenes wounds and to his soul as well, resulting in his conversion? Did Paul recognize in Sosthenes a kindred spirit who had the same zeal that he himself had when he persecuted the church? If so, then Paul knew he had to reach out in love to Sosthenes just as surely as God had by revealing Jesus to him.

If there is any substance to our conjecture then some of our earlier questions begin to have some answers. Sosthenes, as a fellow Corinthian, is well known to the Church. His conversion to Christ, his subsequent service to the church and now to Paul is common knowledge. Paul does not need to make any special introduction of Sosthenes to the church at Corinth.

There is also the possibility that Paul has a much deeper purpose in mentioning Sosthenes than simply a polite reminder of his presence with Paul. From our study of the Corinthian letters we know that the church there was full of problems. They were fragmented and splintered by a whole host of issues that could easily have overwhelmed their immature faith. Discouragement and disillusionment could make a shipwreck of their faith in Christ. Paul

is about to address this multitude of problems and he does not want them to lose hope in spite of some of the sternness that he is about to show toward them. By reminding the Corinthians of Sosthenes at the very beginning of his letter Paul has given them a living example of the power of God to overcome all obstacles. Here was a man who was not simply indifferent or ignorant of the Gospel. Sosthenes was actively hostile against it and a personal adversary of Paul's. Yet, by the grace of God, a whole new relationship, completely different from what had existed before, had been made possible. Sosthenes, rather than someone to be feared or hated, someone to be avoided who could cause much trouble for Christians in Corinth, was now a brother. In Sosthenes, Paul had as good an illustration of the reconciliation possible between man and God and demonstration of the power of God to overcome obstacles that seemed overwhelming. All he had to say was, "and Sosthenes our brother".

Our conjecture about Sosthenes is something we can never know with certainty. Yet, such conjecture is neither implausible nor unbelievable. For nearly 2000 years the transforming power of Christ has changed the lives of men and women from every imaginable circumstance of life. As Christians we have experienced this transforming power even if our own experiences seem modest in comparison to the "Sosthenes" of the Christian faith. The danger that faces us is not that we disbelieve what God may have done in the life of someone like Sosthenes. Rather, it is in losing hope for such possibilities in our own lives. Too often the problems we face in our own congregational, family, or personal lives overwhelm our faith and we accept the status quo as normal.

There may be a Sosthenes in many of our lives who represents the Sosthenes of Acts. Rather than running, hiding, or avoiding such a person we must accept the challenge to be agents of His grace, having faith in the transforming power of Jesus Christ, to make Sosthenes our brother.

Brother Phil Franklin



## FEAR NOT

L. W. Beery

As we write these lines we are thinking of the approaching Christmas season, at which time we expect to again commemorate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Christian people celebrate this event as one of the greatest events that ever transpired in the history of the world. The present condition of the world only makes us appreciate more the coming of the Prince of Peace who made it possible for us to live in a world of strife and carnal warfare and be at peace with all men.

There are so many miraculous things in connection with the birth of our Lord, so many inspiring things that have a definite bearing upon the issues of life now confronting us in these dark days, that it is a refreshing experience to pause in the midst of all this confusion and turmoil and meditate upon the inspired record of the birth of the Christ who came into the world to save men from the very calamities and woes which they are suffering at the present time.

There is one thought set forth in the record of the events connected with this birth that should be especially helpful to Christian people under the conditions in which we are now living. In announcing the birth of Jesus to the shepherds that memorable night the angel said unto them, "Fear not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people." (Luke 2:10.) When viewed in the light of other associated passages of scripture, this is one of the most comforting expressions ever spoken by God, angels, or men. Fear is one of the things that can make the life of we humans here very unpleasant, yea, exceedingly miserable, even to the extent that men seek death rather than to live.

The birth of the Christ was the one and only event that ever took place in the world that can banish fear, the apprehension of evil or danger, this dread and anxiety that distresses and plagues the hearts of men. God alone through his mercies and the intervention of his all powerful hand in our behalf can take away our fears. His messages and provisions for his people in times of trouble and danger have comforted and succored them through



the ages. To the patriarch Abram he said, "Fear not, Abram; I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward." (Gen. 15:1.) His words through Moses to the Israelites were, "Fear ye not, stand still and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will show to you today: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen today, ye shall see them no more forever. The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace." (Exodus 14:13-14.) His message through Isaiah is "Fear thou not: for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God; I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness." (Isa. 41:19.) These precious promises have sustained godfearing people for many generations.

Never in the history of the present generation was there ever a time when there were so many things happening that strike dismay, terror and fear into hearts of men as there are today. "Men's hearts are failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth." So much so, that many are rashly destroying their own lives rather than live under these conditions.

Beloved, as we think on these things and try to fathom the awfulness of it all, how we ought to rejoice that our God has intervened in our behalf in this dispensation to save us from our lost and hopeless state. It was this Christ who was born in Bethlehem that made the great atonement for the sins of a fallen race; it was this Christ that brought from heaven to earth a saving gospel which is the "power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth;" it was this Christ who hath saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, but is now made manifest by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel; it was this Christ that said to all who accept him, "fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom—I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee, and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." With all these precious promises ours, if we lay hold of them in faith believing and surrender our lives into his service, we need have no fears even though living in the midst of dangers, calamities and evils of every description that may be

threatening us. God has never forsaken his people in times of trouble and danger, and never will. With these consoling thoughts upon our minds may we celebrate with rejoicing the birth of this precious Savior who gave himself for us that we might be heirs of God and joint heirs with him in a glorious world without end.

*Reprinted from the December 15, 1942 issue of the Bible Monitor*

### **LIGHT AND SIGHT**

"Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light." Ephesians 5:14

"To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light,..."  
Acts 26:18

So many try to understand the Bible, but are not willing to allow God to open their eyes! Mankind, in this our day, is more than satisfied with their eyes shut, dead in their ignorance. Someone may share the Gospel with them: tell them what Jesus did for them, how He died and was buried and rose again for their sins. Yet they, when presented with this light, will not receive their sight! What a situation: to die because they are not willing to open their eyes!

Imagine if you will the driver of an automobile. How far do you think he would get with his eyes closed? If you were driving and someone else in the car held his hands over your eyes, what would be the outcome? Today, "Ignorance is bliss." The reason why so many have their eyes closed to the truth is that the outcome is not immediate. Adam and Eve did not die right away after they sinned, but there were noticeable changes. Those who have never partaken of heavenly things do not know what they are missing. People blind from birth have no understanding of light, or a concept of colors. Imagine one blind from birth suddenly receiving his sight! What a difference! People in darkness often do not know that they are in darkness until the light comes upon them.

If we have our natural eyes shut and we walk into the sunlight, we can tell, through our eyelids, that the sun is there. We can feel the warmth of the sun upon our face. Alfred, Lord Tennyson



was walking in his garden one day with a friend. The friend asked him, "What think ye of Christ?" Alfred, who was the most famous poet in England at the time, said, "Like the sun is to these flowers is Jesus Christ to me. He is the Sun of my soul." He wrote in his poem, "Crossing the Bar", "There will be no moaning of the bar when I put out to sea." Further, he spoke of the time when, "I shall see my pilot face to face." Has God enlightened us enough that we have that hope in us: to one day see Jesus face to face?

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." (John 8:12) Praise God for Jesus, the Light of the world! How precious that light is, yet many refuse to open their eyes, even when they feel the light on their faces!

We are told in Luke, chapter one, of the work of Jesus, and of John the Baptist. In verse 79 it says, "To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." Darkness and death go together, even when the person in darkness does not realize it. This world is so dark that often those in darkness do not recognize light when they see it. The Pharisees sought to destroy Jesus. The Catholics sought to destroy the Protestant movement. Catholics and Protestants joined forces to destroy the early Anabaptists. The Ecumenical movement of today tries to weaken and destroy the effects of truth. Satan's hordes are deceiving many. Does it not seem that more people should be following the Risen Saviour? They are content with what others have told them. They will not find out for themselves. They will not open their eyes.

Is it possible that a member of a Bible-believing church could have his eyes shut to the truth? You may say that it is unlikely, yet it is possible. We cannot look into a man's heart, yet we can be fairly certain of a man's condition. Some people are happy to be in the presence of the people of God and they are able to display the behavior that Christian's expect, to the point that some of them actually get to sit around the tables of the Lord, yet when they are away from a Godly influence they are far different. D. L. Moody said that character is "what you are in the dark." If you truly have had your eyes opened and truly have been illuminated



by the Spirit of God, you will be different. God will dwell in you and others will see it. You will have turned from darkness to light. Open your eyes.

Brother Lynn H. Miller  
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## **IN PRISON AT PHILIPPI**

Acts 16:19-40

A certain young girl who was possessed with a spirit of divination met with Paul and Silas and company (Timothy and Luke were included in this group). This girl was a fortune teller. My interpretation of this is that she was a slave or at least a servant, because her "masters" or owners (my interpretation) made a lot of money from her telling other people's fortunes.

Well, this girl began following Paul around, and crying out, "These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation." This happened day after day after day. Paul became weary of it. So one day, he decided to put a stop to it. He turned around, and spoke to the spirit that was within the girl, "I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And the spirit came out the same hour. It may have taken a while—perhaps this exorcism was not instantaneous; but the results were soon to be seen. How do you think the girl reacted?

Her masters reacted very negatively! They did not like this little money-making project to be taken away from them! So they "caught" Paul and Silas (I'm sure they were not gentle!) and dragged them to the market place where the rulers of the city were. They brought them to the magistrates with "trumped-up charges." The Word says the whole multitude came together against them.

The magistrates gave the order. Paul and Silas were beaten with many stripes, then cast into prison where their feet were fastened in stocks so they could not possibly get away. What do you think Paul was thinking about after all this happened? How do

you think he perceived his vision of "the Macedonian call" (verse 9)? Apparently it did not phase Paul and Silas too much, because when they could not sleep (because of the severe pain from the beating, likely), they were praying and singing praises at midnight! What a reaction!

You can read the rest of the account about their miraculous deliverance from prison, and the conversion of the jailor and all his household!

After meeting with the church at the house of Lydia, they left the city. Notice that they comforted the brethren; instead of the brethren comforting them! The church at Philippi was apparently more shaken up by this whole experience than Paul and Silas were.

**Summary Thought...**Can you depend upon the Holy Spirit to enable and energize you to properly respond to **all** circumstances (as in Matthew 5:10-12, for example)?

Respectfully Submitted,  
Brother Robert S. Lehigh

## THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE ARE FREE

When we count our many blessings;  
It isn't hard to see  
That life's most valued treasures  
Are the treasures that are free.

For it isn't what we own or buy  
That signifies our wealth.  
It's the special gifts that have no price:  
Our family, friends and health.

-Selected by Sister Fern Wolfe

**KENYA KNOTES**

October 16, Wednesday

David and his crew have one floor laid and it looks nice. They are starting on the second bedroom floor on the guest end. The man doing the windows is nearly finished putting glass in the entire house. The frames were cemented in with the walls, now the man cuts each little glass and plasters it in with putty. He does a neat job.

October 19, Saturday

This was the work day for the church, and I guess they did a lot of digging. Jeremiah worked on the electricity here this morning, then he worked with the men digging this afternoon.

October 20, Sunday

Another beautiful Lord's day in Kenya! Our family and Nancy went to Chesebet today. I was nervous about the roads because of all the rain we've been getting, but they weren't too bad since it hadn't just rained. There were a few muddy spots and we had to put the cruiser in 4 wheel drive once, but otherwise it was just bumpy as usual. We could see several spots were fixed with sand, and that was a real improvement. Church was a real blessing. Joseph is doing a good job leading that church. We really enjoyed the entire service. Joseph taught Sunday School and Jeremiah preached. As soon as church dismissed they told us to sit back down because dinner was ready. It really was! They soon brought the food. It was good, especially the meat.

October 23, Wednesday

Jeremiah worked on electricity all day. We had the power off for about six hours in the process, but he accomplished his mission before supper and dark, so we were glad! Ray is laying the tiles on the west side of the roof, and it is a challenge.

October 26, Saturday

The church work bee was today. I was surprised at the good show of people. One I was really happy to see was Roselyn's husband, Thomas. He was a drunk, and about a month ago the ministers from church went to visit them. In the process of the visit Thomas became a Christian! He started to come to church



and I remember Hosea announcing that this was "Thomas, the new man. Don't think of him as the person he used to be." He's been attending church very regularly, and Pastor Gilbert (who lives next door to them) says he is doing well. So we were happy to see him here today!

October 27, Sunday

We talked here about the lack of visiting after church. It seemed like people just want to rush home. So to encourage (or force) fellowship, Hosea started having a "fellowship circle" after church. One of the ministers starts by walking out of the church and greeting another brother. He stands next to the first brother. The entire church follows in a line and greets whoever is in line, then stands next to the last person in line. We form a circle that comes back to the first person. Sometimes we sing, and everyone seems to enjoy it. We really aren't dismissed until everyone is greeted.

November 6, Wednesday

Jeremiah and Ray have worked up at the new house all day. The sanders are going to work all night, and the cracks need filled behind them as they go. We are down to the last week or so and it is going to be like this. Jeremiah just got the lights all over the new house today, so now they don't have to come home because it is dark.

November 11, Monday

Today was the last day for the sanders to work. Now our guys are ready to varnish the floors. The varnish they are using is really powerful stuff. It smells like finger nail polish. They did that this evening. It made them smell really bad, long after they came home. Jeremiah even took a shower and I could still smell it on his breath.

November 12, Tuesday

This was the day to go to Chesebet for Men's and Women's meetings. There was a large number to greet us, and they soon seated us in the nice new house there. Our family and James' family ate inside the house. The women met in the house, and the men met in another building.

November 14, Thursday

It was so neat to watch the two old ladies of our church here. They both look around 70 years old, are widows, and live close by each other. A month ago they had a spat, and weren't on speaking terms. "Deacon" Peter got them together after church one evening and worked out the problem. Let me tell you, Peter leaves no stones unturned! Ever since those women seem to be the best of friends. The one lady is blind and the other one looks out for her. She will guide her to her seat, and she makes sure her son is there to guide her home. Before their clash, I never saw them together at all. This is forgiveness in action!

November 15, Friday

Today the men put up the phone and electric lines between the houses. Philip dug the hole for the pole and they painted the pole with used motor oil to repel the termites. Then, with the help of all available men, they lifted the pole into the hole. It didn't seem long, and the lines were up. They look really official, and our dream (of the new house) is becoming reality. The freshly varnished floors look nice.

November 17, Sunday

It was our day to go to Ortum today. Ray and Veronica went along with us and we dropped them off at Chepkorniswa for the service there. It's their turn to go there next week, but they are leaving for Nairobi on Sunday. I really hoped that at (generally) dry Ortum, the children could stay semi-clean. So I was glad to get away from the mud here today. Well, guess what? It rained EVERYWHERE last night. We got to the church and I was dismayed to see that it was MUDDY! Mud at a church in America isn't so nice, but when the rain water washes down through the church (with no walls and a mud floor), then you have a problem. We took Gilbert along and he translated. Moses had the Sunday School lesson. Jeremiah could not believe it, but Moses taught from the same chapter that his sermon was to be. So the ladies heard a lot about the "covering" this morning!

November 20, Wednesday

Tonight Jeremiah went up to the new house to hook up the stove for Cheryl. We went up and visited our new neighbors! Our

children are as excited about our new quarters as Ray's girls are of theirs.

November 24, Sunday

Everyone seemed to come to church late today, and it didn't start until 9:45. Peter was on time! He told everyone that it was they who were late for church, and everything was going to go at the normal rate, even though it was late! "NOTHING will be left out!" he said. And that is the way it was. He even reminded everyone again when Sunday School ran overtime! It was a good service. Gilbert had a super sermon. Jeremiah, Nancy and I all agreed that we felt like we were listening to one of the preachers from America! His topic was "vision", and he covered it well.

## CHILDREN'S PAGE

FOR AS HE THINKETH IN HIS HEART SO IS HE

Proverbs 23:7

Teacher Linda looked up from her desk as her class filed into the room. When they were seated, she said, "This is Valentine Month when we usually exchange cards or notes with heart decorations or pass around candy in the shape of hearts. It might be good for us to consider the importance of our heart. If our heart would cease to beat, our life would end as far as this life is concerned, but even more important is our heart life in a spiritual sense. The Bible says in Proverbs 4:23, "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life." Our thoughts, our desires, actions and deeds originate from the heart.

Here is a short list of different hearts mentioned in the Bible and Bible characters associated with the verse.

A Wise Heart ..... Solomon ..... I Kings 3:9 & 12

A Rejoicing Heart .. Hannah ..... I Samuel 2:11

A Perfect Heart ..... King Asa ..... I Kings 5:11 & 14

A Sorrowing Heart. Nehemiah ..... Nehemiah 2:2

A Fixed Heart ..... David ..... Psalms 108:1, 112:7

A Pure Heart ..... Jesus ..... Matthew 5:8



A Proud Heart .....	Solomon .....	Proverbs 16:5
A Whole Heart .....	David .....	Psalms 111:1
A Merry Heart .....	David .....	Proverbs 15:13, 17:22
Heart Treasure .....	Jesus .....	Matthew 6:21
A Troubled Heart ...	Jesus .....	John 14:1, 14:17
A Lying Heart .....	Annaias & Sapphira ....	Acts 5:3
A Serving Heart ....	Paul .....	Ephesians 6:17
A Stony or Rebellious Heart...	Saul .	I Samuel 15:23

After Teacher Linda had passed out a list to each one, she said, "Friday, we will have a quiz. Those who make good grades will have a valentine gift."

The rest of the week the class studied hard and on Friday they awaited the test with eager anticipation.

"Class," said Linda, "My questions are different than what you may have expected, but I want you to learn the lesson these verses teach in a practical way. What type of heart would fit each of the following sentences?"

1. John jumped out of bed and said, "This is the day that the Lord hath made, I will be glad and rejoice in it!"

2. Mother looked at her grocery list with a sigh and said, "I just don't see where the money is coming from for the needed groceries this week!"

3. Mary frowned as she counted her Sunday School money, "I'll keep part of it for candy this week and just give the rest on Sunday."

4. "I'm not going to learn to smoke because I know it's wrong and harmful for my health."

5. Ellen quoted this verse, "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Thy sight, Oh, Lord my strength and my redeemer."

6. Sue scampered down the path singing the song her Mother had taught her.

7. Fern laid aside her book and helped her mother set the table for supper.

8. Ned said, "I am going to learn a Bible memory verse every day."

9. Lucy put on a showy dress, fixed her hair in a stylish way, shaped her eye brows and used make-up on her face.

10. "You can't make me go to church!" said Berry as he angrily stomped out the door.

The class did well on the test. After Teacher Linda had passed out their gifts, each one had a little homemade booklet tied with a red ribbon. Inside the cover was printed the words, "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." Psa. 139:23-24.

On the other side was a copy of the song, "Give Me Thy Heart."

#### GIVE ME THY HEART

"My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways."

Proverbs 23:26

"Give Me thy heart," says the Father above,

No gift so precious to Him as our love:

Softly He whispers, "Wherever thou art,

Gratefully trust Me, and give Me thy heart."

"Give Me thy heart," says the Spirit divine,

"All that thou hast, to My keeping resign:"

"Grace more abounding is Mine to impart,

Make full surrender and give Me thy heart."

Chorus:

Give Me thy heart, give Me thy heart,

Hear the soft whisper wherever thou art:

From this dark world He would draw thee apart;

Speaking so tenderly, "Give Me thy heart."

Sister Maxine Surbey

## THE BOY AND THE MAN

### In Cass County

While other young men were attending high schools and colleges it fell to my lot to get my training by experience, mingling with the common people in different fields. So the time came for me to be transferred to another field, this time to Cass County, Illinois, where we found more hills to the square mile than I had ever seen in all of my shifting about. In many places there was not room for another hill, without placing one on top of two others. We imagined that it would be real enjoyable here, for a preacher of some ability lived in the community, and he was to preach every two weeks in the log school-house near the rented farm on which we lived. But the preacher did not wear, and we were without religious services most of the time. As for the school, along with the log house, conditions were almost as primitive as those found in the woods of Missouri. I thought I would now settle down to the study of grammar. But I could get nothing out of it and my teacher could get nothing into me. About all I got out of a few months' effort was the athletics secured on the playground.

During our few years in the locality it was another case of farming and house painting—rather more painting than farming. And now, as I look back over these years, I see that some of the experiences that came to me proved helpful all through life. While my associates (I being the only young church member of our denomination within a radius of fifty miles) were of an excellent type there were only here and there occurrences that proved an inspiration for further progress in my studies. Still I kept up my reading, and put into books what little money I could spare, picking up here and there all of the Brethren literature that I could get hold of. I even purchased the first and only English grammar ever prepared and published by a member of the church, Sister Clara A. Hass, one of the teachers who had assisted Brother James Quinter in his school at New Vienna, Clinton County, Ohio.

April 8, 1866, I was twenty years old. My father had told me that on that date I would be a free man, and entitled to my wages. I continued working with him, but received regular wages. This meant more money in my pocket, although I had to furnish my own clothing and pay other expenses. The new situation came to



me so naturally that I hardly realized it. And yet I began to plan and work to certain ends. I followed house painting to make money, but my mind was on other things.

About this time something came near happening that might easily have changed the course of life for me. My father took the *Gospel Visitor* while I became interested in the *Christian Family Companion*, edited and published by Brother H. R. Holsinger in Pennsylvania. Brother Holsinger published a call for a young brother to learn the printer's trade in his office. I answered the call at once, and he wrote me a very nice letter, stating terms, and said he would hold the place open for me. The terms were satisfactory enough, and the proposition appealed to me, but as my parents disliked the idea of my going so far from home I wrote the editor that he need not depend upon me. The turn that events took later on, in opening up a still greater work for me in the West shows that I made no mistake in deciding not to go East. It is comforting after years of experience for one to feel, deep down in his soul, that Providence has had something to do shaping life's events.

### Studying Phrenology

It sometimes requires only a word or two to open up a new channel of thought for a young man. One Sunday I chanced to call at the home of a lady, who was a careful reader of the *Phrenological Journal*. Handing me a copy of the *Journal* she called my attention to a chart showing the faculties of the brain. This was my first introduction to phrenology. Borrowing a few copies of the paper I became so interested that I ordered a number of books on phrenology and kindred subjects, and soon found myself all wrapped up in the study of phrenology, physiology, anatomy and associated branches. I ordered books on self-culture, the cultivation of the memory, and hygienic living. I had struck something new, and while I plied the brush during the day, the nights were always too short for the sleep I needed and the amount of reading that I wanted to do.

Now and then, when I had a little leisure, I helped about the farm work. I would plow, toil in the harvest field or go into the timber and chop wood for family use. One day, while trimming up

a tree that I had chopped down, the axe went into my foot and laid one of my great toes open. I got to the house as soon as I could, dressed the cut and found it to be an ugly one. The employment of a physician seldom occurred to us unless we thought some one was almost to die. Among my paints I had a cup of varnish, so I took the brush, daubed the cut full of varnish, tied it up with a cloth saturated with varnish, hobbled into the house, dropped down onto the big rocking chair, rested my crippled foot on another chair, and told one of my sisters to hand me my New Testament. I thought that while my foot was getting well it would be a good time to read the Book through again. I next tackled "Winchester's Lectures on Prophecy." Here I was, studying the New Testament, a treatise on prophecy and the science of phrenology. So, after all, I lost nothing on account of my sore foot.

The cut in my foot having healed up nicely I was soon at work again, this time with my father painting some farm buildings near Virginia, a prosperous country town. One evening my father was waited on by two of the trustees of the Presbyterian church, for the purpose of having him paint the eighty-five-foot steeple of their church, the painters in town having refused to undertake the job. As my father avoided high things in temporal as well as in spiritual matters, he refused though the pay was good and sure.

#### Painting the Church Steeple

While I did not look upon myself as a "climbing jack," still I prided myself on being able to do a little climbing too, so after thinking the matter over I told my father that I felt inclined to tackle that steeple proposition myself. He said I could use my pleasure about it. The next evening found me with the trustees. We talked the matter over, a bargain was struck, and a few days later I was on hand ready for business. I found a dozen well-meaning men with matured plans ready to hand out to the young country painter, telling how to reach the top of that steeple. I listened to them patiently, but kept my own counsel. My plans were all worked out before reaching town, and all I had to do was to order my material and go to work.

With a long ladder I reached the roof, and from the base of the steeple began the erection of my scaffolding, continuing until the



top was reached. Up this long ladder, barefoot too at that, I carried every piece of lumber needed. As I built the scaffold I painted ahead of the work. When this coat was dry I added another, and when this was thoroughly dry I spread on the finishing coat after me as I removed the scaffolding.

While at work on the job I would hear all kinds of witty remarks. One day an Irishman, after viewing me awhile, called out at the top of his voice: "Be jabers, you better sta' up thar. You are jist as near heeven as you will iver git." When the work was finished I was the best-advertised painter in town and had little difficulty in securing all the work that I cared to do.

## BIBLE STORIES

### ALIVE AGAIN

Mark 5:22, Luke 8:41

In our last Bible Story we were telling how Jairus had come to Jesus and asked Him to heal his daughter that was very sick. While Jesus was on the way to the home of Jairus He was delayed by a woman who touched the hem of His garment and was healed.

Jairus, by this time, was surely getting anxious for Jesus to come as fast as possible. But before Jesus left the woman, someone came from the home of Jairus and said, "Your daughter is dead. It's no use to trouble the Master any more."

Jairus must have thought, "Ah, it's too late now; if only Jesus could have come in time!"

But Jesus heard what was said and told Jairus, "Don't be afraid, only believe, and your little girl shall live again."

When Jesus came to the house He wouldn't let anyone go in but Peter, James and John. In those days when anyone died, there were people who were called "mourners" and they would weep and wail and make a lot of noise for money. I suppose when they heard of this sick girl they thought, "She probably won't last long," and they were at the house of Jairus ready to mourn as soon as the little girl died.



Anyway, when Jesus saw all that was going on He said, "Weep not, she isn't dead; she's only sleeping."

But the mourners just laughed at Jesus, and probably someone said, "Just take a look at her; you'll see."

Jesus made them all go out of the room where the little girl lay all pale and dead. After they had all gone out but Peter, James and John and the mother and father, Jesus took the girl's hand and called, "Little girl, I say unto you, arise." It was just like we would say, "It's time to get up."

And she did wake up. She not only woke up but she got out of bed and walked around. She was alive again! Jesus said for them not to tell anybody about what happened but to give the girl something to eat. I'm sure that mother couldn't get something to eat fast enough. Her daughter had been very sick and no doubt had eaten nothing for a long time.

Do you think that mother and father could keep from telling anyone? I don't know but somebody told Mark and Luke, because they both told the same story in the Bible. I'm glad they did, aren't you?

Brother Rudy Cover

## OBITUARY

### LEVI H. MILLER

Bro. Levi H. Miller was born July 9, 1909, to Harvey J. and Fannie (Helmuth) Miller in Elkhart County, Indiana. He passed away September 13, 2002, at Waterford Place Health Campus in Kokomo, Indiana at the age of 93 years 2 months 4 days.

On December 23, 1933, he married Nancy Lorenz who preceded him in death December 3, 1934. On November 26, 1936, he married Grace W. Koones at the home of Elder Peter Lorenz.

In 1933 he was baptized in the Plevna Dunkard Brethren Church where he remained a faithful member until his death. He was a Sunday School teacher, church treasurer, and deacon. He loved the Lord and his church very much.

He was a farmer and retired from the maintenance depart-

ment of St. Joseph Hospital and Health Center in 1975. After retiring he enjoyed working in his shop, repairing and making furniture and caning chairs.

He is survived by his wife Grace Miller; a son Wayne C. Miller, Quinter, Kansas; daughter, Wilma Miller, Kokomo, Indiana; three brothers, Henry Miller, Kokomo, Indiana, Ezra Miller and Harvey Miller both of Macon, Mississippi; two sisters, Nona Slabach, Kalona, Iowa and Ida Lane, Peoria, Illinois; five grandchildren, Daniel Chupp, Wesley Miller and Matthew Miller all of Quinter, Kansas, Donald Chupp and Cynthia Keeny both of Woodward, Iowa; seventeen great-grandchildren; an aunt, Anna Miller, Kokomo, Indiana; special care giver, Kathy McBee, a host of nieces and nephews, friends and a loving church family.

In addition to his parents and first wife, he was preceded in death by infant sons, Kenneth Burl and Joseph Earl Miller, a daughter, Lois Ann Chupp, a daughter-in-law, Rebecca Miller and two brothers.

Funeral services were held September 16, 2002, at Plevna Dunkard Brethren Church. Officiating ministers were Elder Lloyd Lorenz and Elder Robert Carpenter. Brother Wesley Miller officiated at the grave side. Burial was in the Kendall Cemetery in Miami County, Indiana.

The family would like to thank everyone for your love, prayers, phone calls and support through this difficult time.

## NEWS ITEMS

### LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

The 2002 Leadership Conference was held at the Quinter, Kansas Dunkard Brethren Church, November 8—9, 2002. There were approximately 45 officials who participated in this meeting. The topics discussed included "Problem Solving in the Church" and "Raising and Retaining our Children for the Church" and "Preparing our Children for Marriage." Each topic was thoroughly discussed and helpful comments were made for the benefit of the officials attending and those at home.

Special preaching services were held Friday and Saturday

evenings plus the regular services on Sunday. Many from the Quinter community availed themselves of this opportunity for hearing the Word of God and for fellowship.

The Quinter Congregation very graciously hosted this meeting with superb hospitality

THANK YOU

We wish to thank all who sent us a card for our 25th anniversary. We were blessed by your thoughtfulness. May God bless each of you as together we serve Him.

Brother Stephen and Sister Karen Blocher

THANK YOU

For everyone who sent cards for my 100th Birthday, I send a sincere thank you. It was a great blessing to be remembered by so many.

God bless you all.

Sister Clara Gunderman

THANK YOU

Dear Friends across the Brotherhood,

How can I find the right words to thank you for the cards, prayers and phone calls during the recuperating period following heart surgery, July 11.

Many of you were on the "prayer lines" preceding the operation and through the healing and rehab period. God answered your prayers!

I have run into a little bumpy place or two since surgery but again, God has been there.

In the sixth week of rehab and getting along well. I can only thank you, may God bless you.

In His Love,

Brother Gene Kauffman

February 2003 Issue

It is time for Presiding Elders or other designated persons to inform the Editor of any changes that need to be made in the standing information for your congregation found in the February Issue.



Your attention to this matter as quickly as possible will be appreciated.

Thank you,  
The Editor  
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## **ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JANUARY 2003**

Jan. 5 - Beginning the Gospel Story - Mark 1:1-15

1. In what ways did John prepare the way of the Lord, and make His paths straight?
2. What seems to be the foremost command to those who believe the gospel of the kingdom and how can that change their lives forever?

Jan. 12 - Calling, Casting, and Caring - Mark 1:16-31

1. How does Jesus call men and women today?
2. Does being a fisher of men involve a healing ministry?

Jan. 19 - From Dusk to Dawn and Movin' On - Mark 1:32-45

1. Why were people so attracted to Jesus? Was it only because of the healing?
2. What did Jesus say was the reason that He was sent of God?

Jan. 26 - What to do When Unexpected Company Drops In - Mark 2:1-12

1. How much effort will we go to in our pursuit of Jesus?
2. Do we bless those who pass through our doors, (or roof), however the case may be?

## **YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JANUARY 2003**

Jan. 5 - Abiding in Christ - John 15:1-12, I John 2:2, 28

1. What are the guaranteed results when we are directly connected to the vine?
2. What does propitiation mean?

Jan. 12 - Daily Worship - Daniel 6:1-13, Psalm 61:8, Luke 9:23

1. Is there anything in this world that can alter our commitment to worship?
2. Will denying ourselves the taking up our cross daily, bring about a paying of our vows?

Jan. 19 - Associations - Exodus 23:2, Psalm 1:1-2, II Cor. 6:14-18

1. If everyone is doing it, does that make it right?
2. Do we spend more time with our peers, or with the Word of God?

Jan. 26 - Expression of Self - Psalm 100:2, Psalm 147:1, Phil. 4:6-9

1. What can make our faith both vocal and practical in everyday experience?
2. How can the peace of God keep our hearts and minds through Jesus Christ?

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